

# Pre-K for PA



All children ready to succeed



# The Vision

Every 3- and 4-year-old child in Pennsylvania has access to high-quality pre-k.



# Founding coalition partners:



Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children



LIVE UNITED



United Way  
of Greater Philadelphia  
and Southern New Jersey



ECONOMY LEAGUE  
GREATER PHILADELPHIA



# What is the Goal of Pre-K for PA?

*Pre-K for PA is a nonpartisan issue campaign.*

- Educate the public, policymakers, & candidates about pre-k benefits
- Elevate public policy discussion about benefits from pre-k
- Encourage candidates to consider ways to make high-quality pre-k more accessible





- Much progress, but too few 3- and 4-year olds have access to high-quality pre-k
- Available public funds only 1 in 6 children access high-quality pre-k at ages 3 or 4
- Many families cannot find or afford high-quality pre-k

## The Facts About Pre-k In PA

# Why High-Quality Pre-k Matters

- Research: 90% of brain development occurs between birth and age 5
- Stimulating learning experiences significantly influence later cognitive, behavioral, educational and economic outcomes
- There are no do-overs:  
→ Kids who start behind, stay behind



# High-Quality Pre-k Benefits Communities

- Access to high quality pre-k gives all children the opportunity to learn
- Early education investment keeps achievement gap from growing too wide & costly to overcome

## And we know it works

- Dramatic increase in rates of 4-year-olds proficient in academic and social skills
- PA Pre-K Counts: More than tripled, from 22 percent to 82 percent
- Head Start Supplemental Assistance Programs: Six-fold rise, from 12 percent to 76 percent







- When children arrive ready for kindergarten, classroom atmosphere is more conducive to learning
  - Fewer disruptions or delays that sidetrack others
- PA study: School districts investing in pre-k could recoup as much as 78 percent of the investment in education savings
- Targeted preschool programs can reduce special PA education spending by at least 8 percent annually (\$68 million)

## **Quality Pre-k Strengthens Our Schools**





- Significantly improves children's early literacy, language, math and social/emotional skills by kindergarten
- Reduces special education placements by nearly half through 2nd grade
- Reduces grade repetition by up to one-third through 8th grade
- Increases the likelihood of high school graduation and college enrollment

**Quality Pre-k Strengthens Our Schools**



- Stronger employment opportunities and increased lifetime earning potential
- Decreases the likelihood of at-risk children committing crime later in life

**Quality Pre-k Strengthens Our Schools**



- Building intellectual infrastructure for the future
- Smart choice in tight economy that builds on current successful investments

**Pre-k Is a Critical Investment in PA's  
Success**

# Society Pays the Cost for Unprepared Workforce

PA median incomes:

- High school dropout, \$20,547
- High school graduate, \$28,245
- Associate's degree, \$33,989
- Bachelor's degree, \$48,667

\$4 billion: Income if PA's dropouts had graduated with their class in 2011





## Immediate benefits:

- Every \$1 invested circulates \$2 in the community
- 10 pre-k jobs create 3 jobs in outside sectors

## Long-term benefits: \$17 returned for every \$1

- Reduced need for special education and remedial instruction
- Increased graduation and college enrollment rates
- Reduced crime and incarceration
- Increased lifetime earnings and reduced reliance on social services

**PA grows stronger**



**Impressive results in Maryland, Oklahoma, Illinois, and others**

**Other States Provide or  
Planning High-Quality Pre-k**



**Organizations** can endorse the campaign and spread the word to colleagues and members.

**Individuals** can sign the online petition, host a house party, write letters to the editor, and help with community outreach.

- [prekforpa.org](http://prekforpa.org)
- [info@prekforpa.org](mailto:info@prekforpa.org)
- [facebook.com/prekforpa](https://facebook.com/prekforpa)
- [twitter.com/prek4pa](https://twitter.com/prek4pa)

**Get involved**



# Pre-K for PA



[www.prekforpa.org](http://www.prekforpa.org)

