Eliminating Federal Head Start Standards

The Impact on Pennsylvania



For more than 60 years, Head Start has been changing children's lives for the better - providing early learning, health, nutrition, and family supports that help children enter school ready to succeed and help parents work, learn, and build stable futures.

Since 2004, our Commonwealth has invested additional state funding through the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program to reach more children and families than federal funding alone allows. Weakening and/or eliminating federal standards would undermine both the federal investment and Pennsylvania's long-standing bipartisan commitment to expanding access to high-quality Head Start services.

The Impact:

MORE
children in each classroom

FEWER
Head Start teachers, and staff

REDUCED
hours of classroom learning

INCREASED
child care costs for families



WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT HEAD START?

82%
support increased funding

65%
oppose eliminating federal standards



PRE-K FOR PA
READY TO SUCCEED
AN INITIATIVE OF EARLY LEARNING PA

Pennsylvania Head Start Association

Poll conducted by:
Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc.
Interviews conducted: September 22-30, 2026
Sample: 700 registered Pennsylvania voters
Margin of error: +/- 3.7% at the 95% confidence level

County	HS Slots	HS Sites
Adams	186	9
Allegheny	2,957	113
Armstrong	160	5
Beaver	420	15
Bedford	172	6
Berks	644	16
Blair	320	10
Bradford	248	9
Bucks	362	13
Butler	265	7
Cambria	356	6
Cameron	16	1
Carbon	234	1
Centre	218	9
Chester	749	13
Clarion	86	6
Clearfield	567	9
Clinton	118	2
Columbia	123	4
Crawford	106	2
Cumberland	257	8
Dauphin	535	7
Delaware	615	10
Elk	62	3
Erie	768	8
Fayette	800	14
Franklin	383	4
Fulton	48	4
Greene	144	5
Huntingdon	186	8
Indiana	227	4
Jefferson	176	6

County	HS Slots	HS Sites
Lackawanna	622	26
Lancaster	427	17
Lawrence	373	9
Lebanon	376	13
Lehigh	882	11
Luzerne	803	15
Lycoming	453	6
Mckean	100	4
Mercer	305	13
Mifflin	180	3
Monroe	216	5
Montgomery	527	14
Montour	50	1
Northampton	272	9
Northumberland	243	3
Perry	33	1
Philadelphia	7,865	175
Pike	84	3
Potter	16	1
Schuylkill	299	8
Snyder	40	2
Somerset	163	11
Susquehanna	40	2
Tioga	124	5
Union	98	3
Venango	287	4
Warren	145	3
Washington	662	21
Wayne	91	5
Westmoreland	738	23
Wyoming	36	3
York	352	11
Grand total	29,410	767