

Maximizing the value of quality early education in Pennsylvania

Whether you define success for Pennsylvania as a stronger economy, reduced crime, successful students, or thriving communities, early education is key. Research shows that quality early education:

- Reduces the need and public costs for special education, grade retention, public assistance, health care, and correctionsⁱ;
- Generates more regional economic stimulus than any other sectorⁱⁱ;
- Increases employment opportunities for parents, reduces their absenteeism and increases their earning potential over their careersⁱⁱⁱ;
- Promotes healthy brain development in the critical first five years;
- Helps children, especially those at risk for school failure, build early language, math and social skills to enter school ready to learn; and
- Provides long-term benefits that a child carries throughout his/her life, making them more likely to graduate high school, attend college, have higher earnings and own a home.

Pennsylvania's early education programs offer:

Excellence in design

Pennsylvania's early education programs are based on quality standards that align with each other, through kindergarten and beyond.

- Programs required to use Pennsylvania's Learning Standards for Early Childhood to guide curriculum, child observation and assessment. Standards are aligned with 3rd-12th grade standards.
- Teachers and directors can follow the Early Childhood Career Lattice and get help to earn professional credentials and college degrees to increase their skills and remain in the field for a lifetime.

Strong accountability for public expenditures

Pennsylvania has a comprehensive accountability system to ensure that quality expectations are met and public funds are used appropriately.

- Families that apply for programs with income guidelines show income/work documentation that they meet those guidelines.
- Programs report teacher qualifications, classroom demographics, and financial expenditures; onsite review for most programs.
- Independent assessors use the nationally-recognized Environment Rating Scales to assess classroom quality and teacher interaction.
- Pennsylvania's Early Learning Network collects information of children's participation in early childhood programs and their developmental progress to help teachers better guide children's growth and help the state evaluate program effectiveness.

More quality early education choices for families

Pennsylvania's early education system offers quality early learning choices at home, in child care, Head Start, preschools and schools.

- Since 2002, Pennsylvania has reversed a 10-year decline in the quality of child care through Keystone STARS, and experienced a six-year trend in increasing quality in Head Start Supplemental, PA Pre-K Counts, and Keystone STAR classrooms.



Pennsylvania's early education system is working for children, families and communities:

Reducing the need for special education services.

School districts who served the largest number of children in PA Pre-K Counts had a fewer percentage of children (5.8%) entering kindergarten in 2008-2009 with Individualized Education Plans for special needs than districts that enrolled no PA Pre-K Counts children (8.1%).

Facilitating job growth.

According to America's Edge, for every 10 jobs created in the early education sector, three more jobs are created outside the sector.

Preparing children for school success.

About three out of four preschoolers in Head Start Supplemental, Keystone STAR 3 and 4 centers, and PA Pre-K Counts finished the 2009-2010 school year with age-appropriate language, math and social skills.

Providing quality choices that parents want.

Parents rate high satisfaction with early learning programs based on the OCDEL family survey.

At the start of the 2010-2011 school year, approximately 7,000 eligible children and families were on waiting lists for Head Start, PA Pre-K Counts and Nurse-Family Partnership.

Child Care Certification | Child Care Works | Children's Trust Fund | Early Intervention | Full-Day Kindergarten | Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program | Keystone Babies | Keystone STARS | Parent-Child Home Program | Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts | Nurse-Family Partnership

Children served in Select Early Childhood Programs in FY 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 (est.):

In light of current fiscal challenges, Pennsylvania recognizes the value of providing our young children (especially our most vulnerable) with quality early learning opportunities.

Program	FY 09-10	FY 10-11 ¹	FY 11-12 ¹
Child Care Works			
TANF	34,845	38,612	37,623
Former TANF	33,807	31,854	32,611
Low Income	61,085	64,615	64,615
TOTAL (monthly average)	129,737	135,081	134,849
Early Intervention			
Birth to 3 Program	33,288	34,385	35,300
3 to 5 Program	45,442	47,300	48,800

Program	FY 09-10	FY 10-11 ¹	FY 11-12 ¹
Head Start			
Total Head Start in PA	36,602	36,561	36,561
Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program	5,632	5,500	5,500
Keystone STARS	168,530	172,520	172,520
Nurse-Family Partnership	4,635	4,635	4,635
PA Pre-K Counts	11,863	11,500	11,500

¹ Fiscal Year End Goal or Projection

In 2011-2012, Pennsylvania will:

1. **Refine Pennsylvania's early education system** by providing opportunities to improve teacher and program quality and strengthening connections with K-12 education.
2. **Increase efficiencies** at the state and program levels through monitoring, accountability, review of current procedures, and documenting positive outcomes for children.
3. **Help parents make good early learning choices** for their families through parent education and community outreach.

The Governor's proposed budget for early education for 2010-2011 will:

Serve additional families in:

- **Early Intervention** – Expanding to reach 84,100 children (35,300 infants and toddlers and 48,800 preschoolers) by adding 915 infants and toddlers and 1,500 preschoolers.
- Implement federal **Health Care Reform Home Visiting Program** (children served to be determined)

Sustain progress in:

- **Child Care Works Subsidized Child Care Program** – Sustaining to reach approximately 135,000 children (monthly average).
- **Head Start Supplemental** – Sustaining services to approximately 5,500 children.
- **Keystone STARS** – Sustaining higher quality early learning opportunities for nearly 173,000 children and making it possible for programs to achieve higher STAR levels.
- **Nurse-Family Partnership** – Sustaining to reach more than 4,600 children and families.
- **Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts** – Sustaining services to approximately 11,500 children.

Remove services for:

- **Parent-Child Home Program** - Program will be eliminated, removing services to 1,500 children and families.

¹ Reynolds AJ, Temple JA, Robertson DL, and EA Mann. 2002. Age 21 cost-benefit analysis of the Title I Chicago Child-Parent Centers. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 24, 267-303, www.waisman.wisc.edu/cls/ and Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health (2011, January 17). Enhanced early childhood education pays long-term dividends in better health. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved February 17, 2011, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/01/110114155340.htm>

ⁱⁱ Source: Zhilin Liu, Rosaria Ribeiro & Mildred Warner. "Comparing Child Care Multipliers in the Regional Economy: Analysis from 50 States," 2004

ⁱⁱⁱ Timothy J. Bartik, Ph.D., Senior Economist at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, at the Early Learning Investment Commission Economic Summit, April 19, 2010, Harrisburg, PA, www.pa-elic.org.