

HIGH-QUALITY, PUBLICLY FUNDED PRE-K Westmoreland County

County		Pennsylvania
6,568	Population age 3-4	278,983
3,320 (51%)	Eligible children age 3-4*	145,010 (52%)
1,589	Eligible children with access	66,839
1,731	Eligible children without access	78,171
52%	Percent unserved	54%

173

Additional staff needed
for eligible, unserved
children

7,817

County		Pennsylvania
80	Eligible pre-k locations**	3,212
62 (78%)	Receiving public funds for pre-k	2,390 (74%)
38	Pre-K Counts (PKC) locations	1,035
17 (45%)	PKC in high-quality child care	505 (49%)

*Eligible children live in families earning up to 300% of federal poverty level. Children with access includes those enrolled in high-quality providers using public funds to support their pre-k education.

**High-quality, publicly funded pre-k programs are offered through Head Start, Pre-K Counts, Philadelphia pre-k (PHLpreK), school district pre-k programs, and through child care provided in Keystone STAR 3-4 centers and group child care homes participating in the Child Care Works program for preschool-age children. Eligible providers include Head Start, Keystone STARS 3 and 4 center and group child care, PDE-licensed nursery schools and school districts.



The Pre-K for PA vision is to ensure that all children can enter school ready to succeed by making high-quality pre-kindergarten accessible to every three- and four-year-old in Pennsylvania.

VISIT PAPARTNERSHIPS.ORG/MAPPING-TOOLS FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HIGH-QUALITY, PUBLICLY FUNDED PRE-K AND PROVIDERS IN THIS COUNTY

HIGH-QUALITY, PUBLICLY FUNDED PRE-K

BENEFITS OF HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K



reduced grade repetition



increased graduation rates



reduced special ed placements



taxpayer dollars preserved



decreased crime and incarceration

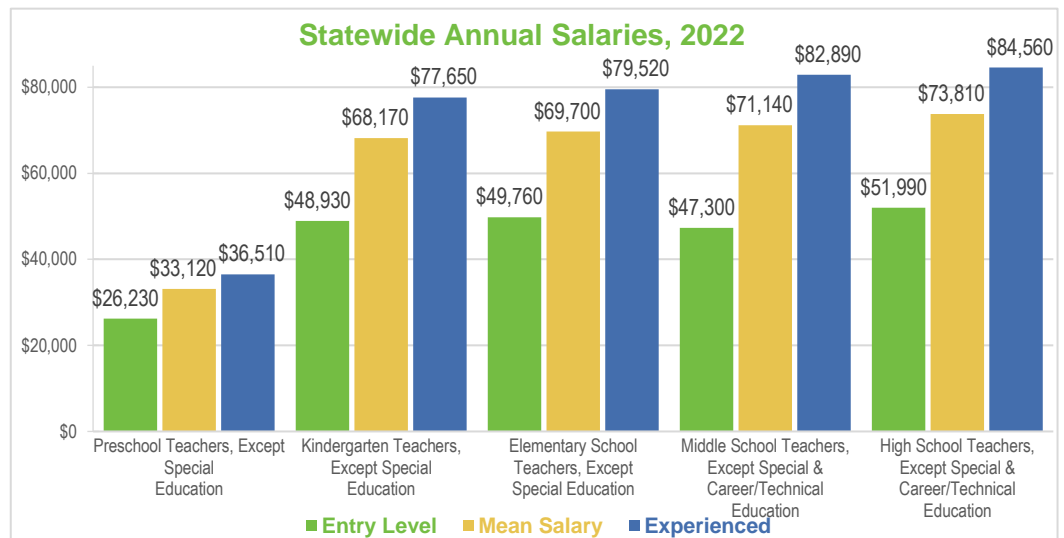


stronger economy

Pre-K Counts teachers have their degree and teaching certification - just the same as a district teacher would. Our Pre-K Counts teachers could make at least \$75K (for the school year/school day hours only) and on top of that, be entitled to generous health and PTO benefits. The state must invest in pre-k to get closer to pay parity.

- Abigail Enz-Doerschner,

Assistant Director, Once Upon a Time Early Learning Center,
Pre-K for PA and Start Strong PA Provider Advisory Board member



As part of an enacted 2024-25 budget, the Pre-K for PA campaign asks the General Assembly to:

- Support an investment of \$30 million in Pre-K Counts to increase the per child rate to help address workforce challenges and inflationary pressures in the sector. For the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program, the proposed investment of \$2.7 million to increase the per child rate should be examined so that it has parity to the Pre-K Counts rate increase. To achieve this, the needed investment should be \$8.8 million in the Head Start Supplemental Assistance line.
- Ensure this is the first step, as additional investments will be needed in future years to further mitigate teacher shortages in this competitive economy and provide greater access to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our preschool learners.



Campaign led by Children First, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, First Up, Mission Readiness, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, Pennsylvania Head Start Association, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, Trying Together and United Way of Pennsylvania.

prekforpa.org

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3/2024

Data is provided by KIDS COUNT®: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children