

WHY INVESTMENT IN EARLY EDUCATION MATTERS



Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

A child's brain develops so rapidly in their first years, it's almost impossible for us to imagine.

- By age five, about 90% of our brains are developed.
- What children learn before kindergarten affects how well they will do in school and even what career they may be qualified to pursue as adults.

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

Over the last 40 years, much research has been conducted in this field and those studies show:

- 49.7% of children who participated in the preschool intervention for 1 or 2 years had a higher rate of high school completion.
- Children who did not participate are 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18.

Reynolds, A.J., Temple, J.A. Robertson, D.L., & Mann, E.A. (2001). Long-term effects of an early childhood intervention on educational achievement and juvenile arrest. *Journal of the Medical Association*, 285(12), 2339-2380.

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

Over the last 40 years, much research has been conducted in this field and those studies show:

- 21.9% of children with extended program participation from preschool through second or third grade also experienced lower rates of grade retention.

Reynolds, A.J., Temple, J.A. Robertson, D.L., & Mann, E.A. (2001). Long-term effects of an early childhood intervention on educational achievement and juvenile arrest. *Journal of the Medical Association*, 285(12), 2339-2380.

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According to Pennsylvania Department of Education statistics, an average of 22 children per school district are retained by grade 3.

That is equal to 1 whole classroom retained.

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According to the *Significant benefits: The High/Scope Perry Preschool study through age 27* report: Children who received high-quality early education on average outperformed other students on various intellectual and language tests during their early childhood years, on school achievement tests between ages 9 and 14, and on literacy tests at ages 19 and 27.

Schweinhart, L.J., Barnes, H.V., & Weikart, D.P. (1993). *Significant benefits: The High/Scope Perry Preschool study through age 27*. Ypsilanti, MI: High/Scope Press; Schweinhart, L.J., Montie, J., Xiang, Z., Barnett, W.S., Belfield, C.R., & Nores, M. (2005). *Lifetime effects: The High/Scope Perry Preschool study through age 40*. Ypsilanti, MI: High/Scope Press.

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

- Economic studies show the return on investment in early education correlates to every \$1 spent by the state government equals \$2 immediately reinvested in the local community.
- Studies also show for every \$1 Pennsylvania invests in quality early education it saves \$7 in public investment in public services and crime control.

www.heckmanequation.org/content/resource/why-early-investment-matters and
www.highscope.org/Content.asp?ContentId=611
government.cce.cornell.edu/doc/pdf/50States.pdf

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

- A cost-savings study initiated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education concluded that if pre-kindergarten was made available to all children [statewide], approximately 76,000 – or 50% – would participate, ultimately reducing the number of students requiring special education services by 2,380 and saving Pennsylvania taxpayers \$102 million.
- For every \$1 invested [in pre-k], 16-31 cents will be saved elsewhere in the school system.

Information provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education www.pde.state.pa.us

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

- ❑ In 2011, the average cost of kindergarten per child in Pennsylvania was \$11,954*
- ❑ In 2008 the annual cost of incarceration per prisoner in Pennsylvania was \$43,260**
- ❑ National average was \$24,052**

*Pennsylvania Department of Education: <http://www.localschooldirectory.com/state-schools/PA>

**Vera Institute of Justice: <http://www.vera.org/pubs/price-prisons>

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

There are an estimated 91,640 children under the age of 5 in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster and York Counties, of those children only 32% (27,473) participate in early education programs:

- 3% (2,473) are served by Head Start
- 2% (1,050) are served by PA Pre-K Counts
- 2% (1,064) are served by school-based preschool
- 1% (581) are served by Nurse Family Partnership and Parent/Child Home Visiting Programs
- 9% (8,592) are served by Early Intervention
- 15% (13,713) are served by Keystone STARS child care providers

Based on data collected by Office of Child Development and Early Learning, PA Department of Public Welfare and PA Department of Education www.pakeys.org.

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

There are an estimated 12,733 children under the age of 5 in Cumberland County, of those children only 33% (4,155) participate in early education programs:

- ▣ 1.6% (208) are served by Head Start
- ▣ 1% (46) are served by PA Pre-K Counts
- ▣ 0% (0) are served by school-based preschool
- ▣ 0.5% (40) are served by Nurse Family Partnership and Parent/Child Home Visiting Programs
- ▣ 6.4% (1,019) are served by Early Intervention
- ▣ 22.3% (2,842) are served by Keystone STARS child care providers

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

There are an estimated 16,794 children under the age of 5 in Dauphin County, of those children only 36% (5,927) participate in early education programs:

- ▣ 4.8% (805) are served by Head Start
- ▣ 6% (439) are served by PA Pre-K Counts
- ▣ 6.7% (451) are served by school-based preschool
- ▣ 1% (94) are served by Nurse Family Partnership and Parent/Child Home Visiting Programs
- ▣ 7% (1,468) are served by Early Intervention
- ▣ 15% (2,670) are served by Keystone STARS child care providers

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

There are an estimated 35,521 children under the age of 5 in Lancaster County, of those children only 28% (9,752) participate in early education programs:

- 2% (834) are served by Head Start
- 2% (306) are served by PA Pre-K Counts
- 3.4% (476) are served by school-based preschool
- 1% (260) are served by Nurse Family Partnership and Parent/Child Home Visiting Programs
- 7.3% (3,394) are served by Early Intervention
- 12.6% (4,482) are served by Keystone STARS child care providers

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

There are an estimated 26,592 children under the age of 5 in York County, of those children only 27% (6,988) participate in early education programs:

- 2.4% (626) are served by Head Start
- 2.4% (259) are served by PA Pre-K Counts
- 1.3% (137) are served by school-based preschool
- 1% (183) are served by Nurse Family Partnership and Parent/Child Home Visiting Programs
- 8% (2,711) are served by Early Intervention
- 11.6% (3,072) are served by Keystone STARS child care providers

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

Breakdown of Children in enrolled in early education programs

Head Start:	2,473	3%
Pre-K Counts:	1,015	2%
Early Intervention:	8,592	9%
Keystone STARS:	13,713	15%

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Keystone STARS

- Children enrolled in Keystone STARS = 13,713
- Children enrolled in high quality STARS 3 or 4 rated provider or center-based program = 3,393 (16%)

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

What can you do to help increase the success of children entering your district?

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

- As a board, ask yourselves these questions:
 - Do you connect with early learning professionals through coordinated in-service training days?
 - Do you know what quality early learning education is?
 - Do you have formal or informal transition plans?
 - Do these plans include your community's early education providers?

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

- As a board, ask yourselves these questions:
 - Do you have early learning strategies in your strategic plan?
 - If so, how can you expand them?
 - Do you have activities that link with the nationally-recognized Week of the Young Child?
 - How successful is your kindergarten registration?

- Look at the answers. What are the results?

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- Here's what PennAEYC can help with:
 - Providing data in terms your early education, such as:
 - Number of children attending early learning sites (pre-K Counts, STARS 3 or 4, NAEYC accredited and Head START)
 - Provider types in your area (www.humanservices.state.pa.us/compass.web/ProviderSearch/pgm/PSWEL.aspx)

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- Here's what PennAEYC can help with:
 - Connecting your district to these early learning providers
 - Share examples of strategic planning language that promotes inclusive early learning strategies
 - Share examples of successful transition practices

Why Investment in Early Education Matters

- Final thoughts:
 - ▣ Look at education in the continuum with early education and kindergarten being a part of the whole process rather than in specific steps.
 - ▣ Cost savings to districts include special education, grade retention, fewer hours in remediation.
 - ▣ **Remember, early education is an investment in acceleration, not remediation.**

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For further information contact PennAEYC at:

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- PennAEYC www.pennaeyc.org
 - or 1-888-272-9267