

Pennsylvania
Partnerships for Children
The State of the Child
2008



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The State of the Child

- **Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children**
 - Advocacy organization
 - Independent, non-profit
 - Prevention-focused, research-based
- *Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children is a strong, effective and trusted voice for improving the health, education and well-being of the Commonwealth's children.*



Child Well-Being: COMMUNITY

- 1 in 3 PA children lives in a low-income family
 - 200% Poverty = \$40,000 for a family of four
 - 100% Poverty = \$20,000 for a family of four
 - **Impact:** Greater likelihood of:
 - Learning disabilities
 - Grade retention
 - School dropout
 - Substance abuse



Child Well-Being: COMMUNITY

- Counties with the most low-income children are Forest (58.7%), Philadelphia (56.2%) and Fayette (53.4%)
- The three counties with fewest low-income children are from the southeast – Montgomery (14.7%), Bucks (15.6%) and Chester(15.2%)
 - Within the counties, there is a large diversity – York City SD has 68.9% low-income children while York Suburban SD has 15.5%.



Child Well-Being: COMMUNITY

- 29% of children under age 18 live with one parent (ACS 2006)
- Counties with fewest children in single-parent households include Indiana (14.3%) and Chester (16.6%),
- Those with more include Philadelphia (56.5%) and Northumberland (37.4%)
- **Impact:** Children of single parent are more likely to:
 - Live in poverty
 - Have fewer relationships with male role models
 - Have less time to interact with parents
 - Have diminished social supports
 - Have lower academic and social well-being



Child Well-Being: COMMUNITY

- 1 child in 6 is born to a mother with less than a high school education
 - Impact: Children likelier to live in poverty and have lower reading skills
- 1 child in 12 is born to a single, teenaged mother
 - **Impact:** Mothers are less likely to finish high school and are more likely to be poor, unmarried, and on government assistance



Child Well-Being: COMMUNITY

- 20,262 children in PA (ages 0-20) are in foster care
- 9,361 are youth 13-20
 - **Impact:** Children who endure disruptions in parenting are likelier to have poor academic performance as well as diminished physical and behavioral health



Child Well-Being: COMMUNITY

- 8.3% of babies born in 2005 were classified as low birth weight (LBW), less than 5 pounds, 9 ounces.
- Some counties with more than 10% of their births being LBW include Greene and Potter
- Counties with low rates of LBW include Cameron and Union
 - **Impact:** Babies born at low birth weight are likelier to die in the first year of life. They also can have disabilities and health problems that impair learning.



Child Well-Being: HEALTH

- 133,000 of PA children under age 19 are uninsured. Last year PPC worked for passage of Cover all Kids expanding CHIP coverage to even more kids.
- 68% of uninsured kids are between ages of 11 and 18; (*Office of Health Care Reform, 2004*)
- Almost 40% of PA children are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP



Child Well-Being: HEALTH

- In counties such as Blair and Clearfield more than 50% of their children are enrolled in CHIP or MA
- In Butler and Northampton counties, fewer than 30% of children are enrolled
 - **Impact:** Uninsured children are more likely to miss school, may not have relationship with primary care provider, and are more likely to need costly emergency room care.



Child Well-Being: HEALTH

- PPC following federal reauthorization of State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).
- In December, Congress passed and the President signed an extension that will fund SCHIP through March 2009. The extension provides sufficient funds to prevent shortfalls in the states.
- The extension does *not* address a federal directive last year limiting expansion, including PA's Cover All Kids.



Child Well-Being: HEALTH

- In Aug. 2007, CMS - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - issued a directive limiting expansion. PA and 14 other states that cover children over 250% Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) could face a lack of federal funding to cover these children.
- According to PA Department of Insurance, approximately 3,300 currently-covered children could be affected by the directive.



Child Well-Being: EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

- 68% of income-eligible children ages 3 and 4 are enrolled in Head Start
- In PA, 20% of 3-and 4-year-olds are in publicly-funded pre-K and Head Start programs:
 - Dauphin County – 27.3% enrollment
 - Cumberland County – 4.8% enrollment
 - Philadelphia – 47.7%



Child Well-Being: EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

- 56.7% of PA kindergarteners are enrolled in full-day K compared to 65% nationally
 - **Impact:** Early education fosters cognitive, social and emotional growth. Kids exposed to pre-K do better in school and experience fewer incidents of special education placements and grade retentions.



Child Well-Being: EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

- As of March 5, the waiting list for subsidized child care in Pennsylvania totaled 8,280.
- Counties with high numbers of children on the waiting list include Delaware (1,024), Lehigh (494) and Berks (343).
- Low-income working parents rely on dependable, high-quality child care so they can earn a living for their families.



Child Well-Being: EDUCATION

- For 2005-06 school year, 14.8% of students were enrolled in special education
- 2% have severe disabilities
- One child in three (30.5%) has a disability in Clairton City SD and one in four (26.1%) in West Greene SD.
 - **Impact:** Students with disabilities generally require special education services and programs, some of them very costly.



Child Well-Being: EDUCATION

- 2.5% of students have limited English proficiency
- LEP students are in rural, urban and suburban school districts alike. Districts with large LEP enrollments include Lower Moreland Twp (23%), Lancaster (20%), Reading (13%) and Upper Adams (10%).
 - **Impact:** Students with limited English proficiency face greater challenges making progress in school.



Child Well-Being: EDUCATION

■ Statewide:

- 27.2% of 3rd grade students were not proficient in reading and 21.5% in math
- 40.1% of 5th grade students were not proficient in reading and 29.1% in math
- 25% of 8th grade students were not proficient in reading and 32.1% in math



Child Well-Being: EDUCATION

- Statewide:
 - 34.6% of students were not proficient in reading and 46.4% in math in 11th grade
 - About 75% of 2005/06 graduates said they planned to further their education



School District Wealth Does Not Equal Student Success

School District	Percent Free/ Reduced Lunch	Percent of Students Not Proficient in PSSA	
		Math - 11	Reading -11
<u>Montgomery</u> Springfield Twp	7.2	41	25
<u>Adams</u> Fairfield Area	15.7	61	46
<u>Potter</u> Oswayo Valley	45.3	28	28
<u>Erie</u> Erie City	74.8	30	24



Child Well-Being: EDUCATION

- 2005-06 expenditures per pupil - \$10,172
 - Gap from highest-spending district to lowest: 2.6 to 1. From a high of \$20,816 per student in Bryn Athyn (Montgomery County) to \$7,420 in Northwestern School District (Erie County).
 - Funding equity remains a problem in PA
(More on this later!)



Child Well-Being: EDUCATION

■ Graduation Gap

- Two out of 5 urban ninth graders fail to graduate from high school in the same district four years later
- One out of 6 rural ninth graders fails to graduate from high school in the same district four years later
- One out of 8 suburban kids fails to graduate
 - **Impact:** Adult life for young people without at least a high school diploma is full of economic problems and few opportunities to advance skills.



Child Well-Being: EDUCATION

- Within counties the Grad Gap varies greatly across school districts:
 - York Co. – York City - 61.9%, Northern York Co -1.9%
 - Armstrong Co. – Apollo-Ridge -46.3%, Freeport Area -6.7%
 - Lehigh Co. – Allentown City -45.1%, Parkland -2.3%



Child Well-Being: EDUCATION

- High school graduates earn *three times* more than those who did not graduate.
- College graduates earn *six times* more.
- Dropouts have higher rates of teen pregnancy, substance abuse and crime.
- 80% of those incarcerated are dropouts.



Child Well-Being: EDUCATION

- PPC engaged in youth-centered work to help all young people 12-21 transition successfully from middle school to high school, to postsecondary life and beyond
- Visit www.papartnerships.org and click on Ready@21 icon

PA ready@21



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

- High School Graduation Requirements
- PA School Funding Campaign
- State and Federal Budget Issue Advocacy



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

High School Graduation Requirements

- Provide consistent statewide measurement of the minimum knowledge and skills that a public high school diploma signifies and a system of academic supports to help students achieve
- Proposed regulations from State Board of Education



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

- Under current regulations, one of the requirements to graduate from public high school is students must demonstrate achievement of the state standards by scoring proficient or above on the 11th grade PSSAs or a local assessment aligned to the state standards.



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

- In 2006, 45 percent of graduating seniors did not score proficient on the reading and math 11th grade PSSAs, the 12th grade retake, or did not take the PSSAs but graduated based on local assessments.
- In 2006, 461 school districts graduated *at least* 20 percent or more students than scored proficient or above on the PSSA: some include State College Area, West Chester Area, Manheim Twp. and Lower Merion.



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

- Information from community colleges around Pennsylvania suggests that 50 percent or more of recent high school graduates need to take remedial courses before they can take credit-bearing courses.
- Students and parents have to pay - \$82M per year in PA for remediation in community colleges.



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

- PPC supports proposed regulations adopted by state Board of Education in January
- Proposal calls for creation of 10 Graduation Competency Assessments (GCAs) that will uniformly measure student achievement across PA



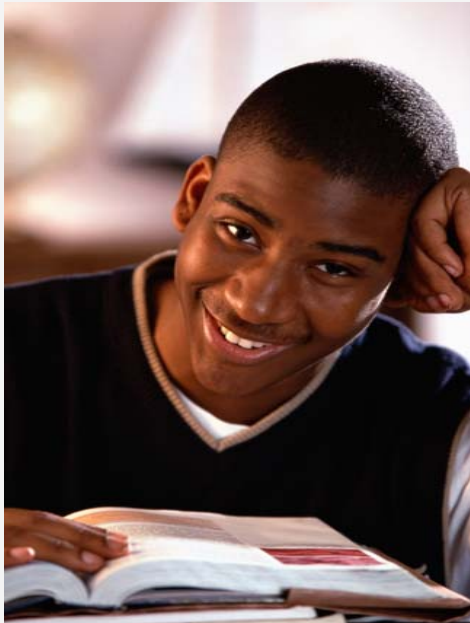
PPC: Issues of Special Focus

- Comprehensive system of supports for districts and students including:
 - model core curricula
 - mandatory remediation
 - professional development
 - technical assistance for districts to design remediation, tutoring and extended instruction;
 - Accommodations/modifications for English language learners/students with disabilities.



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

- Not more tests, better model!
- Success in other states



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

PA School Funding Campaign

- PA has no basic education formula
- PA's public education funding system is unequal in terms of resources & opportunities for students; Over-reliance on local property taxes.
- Costing-Out Study conducted gives us the information we need to build a sound education finance system.



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

- When fully funded, PA's new system should be:
 - Adequate
 - Equitable
 - Efficient
 - Accountable
 - Predictable



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

- \$291 million in Governor's 2008/09 Executive Budget to begin to address needs and impose a formula for basic education
- PPC part of PA School Funding Campaign
- www.paschoolfunding.org
- Join Campaign as supporter



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

Campaign supports the Governor's proposal as a critical first step toward a multi-year effort for reform.

- In addition, the following recommendations also should be adopted as part of the final budget:
 - **Tax effort**: School districts that have high local tax efforts should be rewarded while not punishing those school districts that have traditionally had a lower local tax effort.



PPC: Issues of Special Focus

- **Special education**: Begin to address special education funding for students with disabilities and gifted students
- **Insure modest transitional funding**: School districts will need no less than a modest 2% increase to assist with the increasing costs of educating students.
- **Accountability**: Focus accountability provisions of the budget on proven education programs and student achievement.



The State of the Child

- What can you do?
 - Clearly you do it every day by the work you do with children and families.
- **But, we must all be child advocates!**
 - Join PPC e-advocacy network: PA CAN
 - You will receive our monthly newsletter which connects you to the most critical actions you need to take for kids at the state and federal level.
 - Click **Act Now** button on our website or:
- <http://ga3.org/joinppc/join.tcl>



The State of the Child

For more information:

www.papartnerships.org

800-257-2030

For more data on the conditions of children
in Pennsylvania, connect to our KIDS
COUNT project at:

www.papartnerships.org/stateofthechild06_success.asp

