

A HISTORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR KIDS

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) began its effective advocacy efforts in 1992 and made its mark with a groundbreaking policy win right out of the gate with the enactment of the Pennsylvania Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP, which famously served as a model for children's health insurance nationally. Now celebrating 25 years of driving positive change for Pennsylvania's children, it is clear to see that PPC campaigns have grown in sophistication, scope and ultimate wins.



2016

With PPC's president and CEO serving as chair, the Campaign for Fair Education Funding (CFEF) led efforts to win an increase of \$200 million in state basic education funding for the 2016-17 budget, coupled with the enactment of a permanent, fair and equitable basic education funding formula that promotes academic success for every child. The new student-driven formula strategically directs adequate resources to students and school districts with the greatest needs based on critical data elements.

2015

As a leading partner of the Pre-K for PA campaign, PPC led efforts to win an annualized state funding increase of \$60 million to expand high-quality pre-k to nearly 6,500 more children. This represents the largest program expansion since Pennsylvania began investing in pre-k.

PPC wins enactment of a new law that limits the use of one of the least desirable options to ensure that foster youth have a permanent family.

2014

More rigorous academic standards, called the Pennsylvania Core Standards, and assessments aligned to those standards, including the Keystone Exams, formally take effect. PPC worked for several years with state lawmakers and multiple administrations to ensure these statewide standards and assessments would be rigorous enough to ensure our high school graduates are college and career ready.

Aided by PPC's support and guidance, several new child protection measures are signed into law. They include measures that detail who is legally obligated to report abuse, update Pennsylvania's system for tracking child abuse complaints, and increase funding for child advocacy centers. Other new laws provide employment protection for those who report suspected abuse and set penalties for failure to report abuse.

PPC partners with other prominent early learning advocacy organizations to launch two new statewide, non-partisan issue campaigns: the Pre-K for PA campaign, which is working to ensure every 3- and 4-year-old in Pennsylvania has access to high-quality pre-k, and the Early Learning PA campaign, which advocates for a comprehensive early childhood system that ensures all children have access to the education and support they need to enter school ready to learn.

2013

Several new child protection laws are enacted with PPC's support, including measures expanding the definition of child abuse "perpetrator" and lowering the threshold for what constitutes abuse.

Pennsylvania's CHIP program is reauthorized through 2015 and eliminates a rule that required some children to wait six months before enrolling in CHIP. PPC stands with the governor at the bill signing.

2012

Pennsylvania fully implements the federal Fostering Connections law, to help foster teens successfully navigate the difficult transition to adulthood with PPC joining other advocates to enact this important statute.

Pennsylvania adopts a new educator evaluation system that will give teachers the guidance they need to grow professionally and help more students achieve, with PPC as a leading advocacy partner.

2011

PPC leads coalition efforts to oppose proposed funding cuts for full-day kindergarten. Republicans and Democrats unite to restore much of the funding.

2010

PPC leads efforts to adopt the Children in Foster Care Act, a Bill of Rights for foster children, so they know their rights, while resource families, caseworkers, and birth families know their responsibilities.

PPC negotiates an agreement among lawmakers to enact legislation to facilitate a Voluntary Post-Contact Adoption Agreement. Barriers to teen adoption fall by assuring children continued contact, when appropriate, with birth families.

2009

PPC spearheads advocacy efforts that yield the enactment of new regulations to ensure every high school graduate has demonstrated competency on state academic standards through the implementation of Keystone Exams, aligned curriculum and diagnostics and remediation for students.

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2008 **PPC works** with state leaders to enact the first rational school funding formula in nearly 20 years that addresses adequacy, equity and accountability.

2007 **PPC co-chairs** the statewide Pre-K Today campaign that results in the passage of Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts.

2006 **PPC leads** a statewide coalition that drives enactment of Pennsylvania's universal children's health coverage – Cover All Kids.

2004 **PPC leads** efforts to win the first state funding for full-day kindergarten through the Accountability Block Grant program, as well as the first state funding for Head Start.

2002 **PPC staff** works with state government officials to design and launch the Keystone STARS program – a child care quality improvement and rating system.

PPC works with other regional and statewide child advocates through the First Focus campaign designed to elevate children's issues in the gubernatorial election.

2001 **PPC works** with Quad Group (see 1999 achievement) and gains Governor Schweiker's support to create an Early Care and Education Task Force to develop a blueprint for the future.

2000 **PPC successfully** advocates for expansion of tax forgiveness for low-income working families allowing them to keep more of their income to raise their children.

PPC launches the PA Children's Advocacy Network (PA-CAN), connecting child advocates across the commonwealth through electronic advocacy information, training, tools and actions.

1999 **PPC and United Way of PA** staff a partnership among the state's four most powerful business organizations (Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Pennsylvania Business Roundtable [now Pennsylvania Business Council], Pennsylvania Council of Business and Industry and the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce) known as the Quad Group to advocate for early learning investments.

PPC launches the Covering Kids campaign, partnering with state government, insurers, providers and consumer advocates to ensure all eligible children are enrolled in health coverage.

1998 **PPC staff** works with the Ridge administration and child advocates to pass the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

PPC leads state efforts to dramatically expand the PA CHIP program and maximize federal resources. The long CHIP waiting list is eliminated!

1997 **PPC leads** the PA coalition that successful advocates for the passage of federal SCHIP – the federal children's health insurance program modeled after Pennsylvania's plan.

1996 **PPC works** with state and federal partners to ensure welfare reform protects the interests of children.

1993 **PPC launches** the PA KIDS COUNT project and begins annual reporting on key indicators of child well-being.

1992 **PPC leads** coalition efforts to adopt CHIP, assuring that children grow up healthy. CHIP will continue and strengthen in coming decades with unqualified, bipartisan support.

Lucy Hackney founds PPC to advocate for policies that improve the well-being of all children. She had been an attorney with the Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia, helping individual children but wanting to impact children's lives on a statewide scale.

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

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