

# IMPORTANCE OF HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K IN MERCER COUNTY

Making sure children are ready to succeed

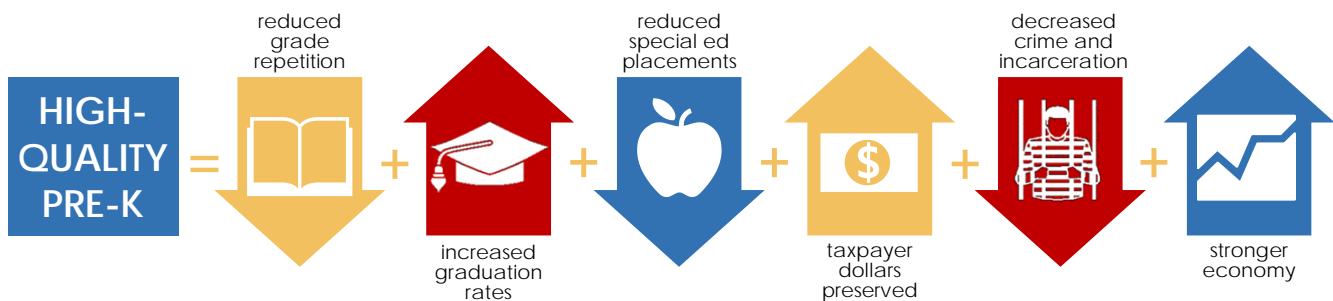
**2,487** children ages 3 and 4 live in Mercer County.

**1,631** children (66%) live in families below 300% poverty.  
(\$72,750 for a family of four)

**1,145** children living below 300% poverty in the county **do not** have access to publicly funded, high-quality pre-k.



This means **70%** of eligible children are missing their high-quality pre-k opportunity.



High-quality programs include Head Start, Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program, Keystone STARS 3 and 4, PA Pre-K Counts, public school pre-k, accredited or PDE-licensed nursery school, and providers accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Early Childhood Program Accreditation, and National Afterschool Association/Council On Accreditation (per OCDEL 8/2015). Data presented here includes children enrolled in high-quality providers using public funds to support their pre-k education.



The Pre-K for PA issue campaign is working to ensure that all Pennsylvania children can enter school ready to succeed. Our goal is for every 3- and 4-year-old in the commonwealth to have access to high-quality pre-kindergarten by 2019.

Data is provided by KIDS COUNT: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

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# IMPORTANCE OF HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K IN PENNSYLVANIA

## Making sure children are ready to succeed

FY 2015-16: Increased \$30 million for high-quality pre-k (Pre-K Counts and the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program)

- 6,200 more children are receiving high-quality pre-k for half a school year

FY 2016-17: Increase pre-k by \$90 million

- 7,400 more children will receive high-quality pre-k
- 6,200 children will receive pre-k for a full school year instead of a half year

Generate enough revenue to make continued progress on substantial increases in investments that work like high-quality pre-k.

Even with a \$90 million increase, over 107,000 - or 61 percent - of at-risk preschool children still will not have access to high-quality pre-k.

**296,957** children ages 3 and 4 live in Pennsylvania.

**175,884** children (59%) live in families below 300% poverty.  
(\$72,750 for a family of four)

**120,642** children living below 300% poverty in the state **do not** have access to publicly funded, high-quality pre-k.



This means **69%** of eligible children are missing their high-quality pre-k opportunity.



Campaign led by the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children, Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Mission Readiness, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, Pennsylvania Head Start Association, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children, Public Citizens for Children and Youth, and United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey



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