IMPORTANCE OF
HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K
IN PENNSYLVANIA

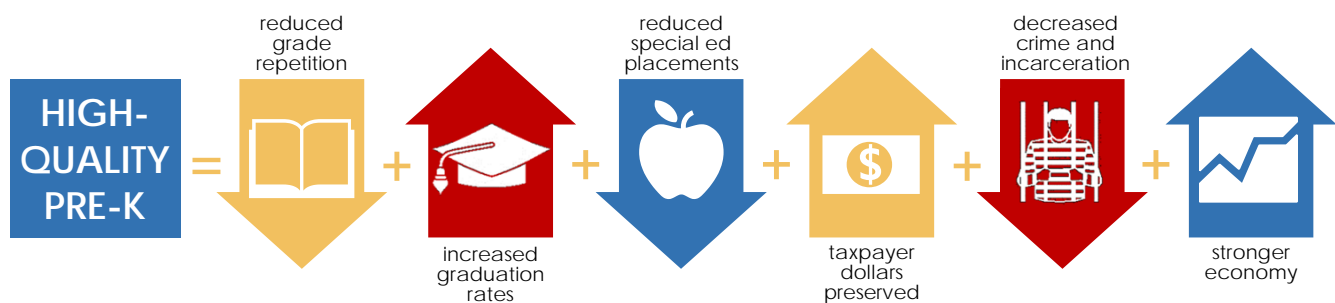## Making sure children are ready to succeed

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 county **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.

HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K =

reduced grade repetition +

increased graduation rates +

reduced special ed placements +

taxpayer dollars preserved +

decreased crime and incarceration +

stronger economy

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.

PRE-K FOR PA
READY TO SUCCEED
AN INITIATIVE OF EARLY LEARNING PA

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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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.

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