

## URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE

### School Closings Alert

#### Pre-K Funds Sought

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Even though it comes with a \$75-million dollar price tag, educators say test scores could improve in Pennsylvania if a new pre-kindergarten program is put in place.

Supporters of the "Pre-K Counts" initiative met Wednesday in Mansfield. They say Pennsylvania needs better pre-k programs to better prepare students for school.

Jill Nickerson of Toddler University said, "I have a waiting list. Being able to provide more space for these children to have pre-k and just getting them involved in it is so important."

Pre-K funding is in Governor Ed Rendell's proposed budget. If the legislature approves it, elementary schools, head start programs and nursery schools can start applying for extra funding to improve their pre-k programs or they can start new programs.



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