

Governor's pre-K program worth funding

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to voice my support for early learning opportunities for all young children and for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts -- Gov. Ed Rendell's proposal in the 2007/08 budget for pre-kindergarten. Pre-K Counts will enable 11,000 3- and 4-year olds across Pennsylvania to attend high-quality pre-kindergarten through a mixed service delivery system in the 2007-2008 school year.

Studies show that children who attend high-quality pre-K enter school more prepared and achieve greater success, including fewer grade retentions, less remediation and higher standardized test scores. Furthermore, kids who attend pre-K are more likely to grow up and graduate from high school, earn higher wages and contribute as active members of their communities. Giving children the opportunity to develop socially, behaviorally and cognitively before they start kindergarten just makes sense.

Pre-K helps foster a lifelong love of learning. Who could argue with that?

Kids who start behind stay behind, and with the deadline looming for No Child Left Behind, we don't have time to waste to ensure all Pennsylvania children are proficient in math and reading.

I urge readers of this newspaper to support pre-K investments in the state budget that will positively impact students, schools, and communities in our area and the commonwealth as a whole.

Barbara Fishel, Lititz

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