

Fund pre-K education in Pa.

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Jun 10, 2007 — York City Police Commissioner Mark Whitman's testimony before the House Education Committee supported what York County business and community leaders have known for years:

When children enter school ready to learn, we all win.

The proposed \$75 million Pre-K Counts program will serve children in high quality pre-kindergarten programs.

Pre-K Counts programs can be administered by school districts, community-based programs, or they can partner together to operate a Pre-K Counts program.

Families will be able to enroll their children in programs that meet their needs.

Focus On Our Future, a Success By 6 initiative of the United Way of York County, works to improve the quality of early childhood education.

York County has the third-highest percentage of nationally accredited high-quality providers in the commonwealth.

Through Focus On Our Future, York County school districts and early childhood education programs work together on curriculum, teacher training, and to help parents prepare their children for kindergarten.

These existing partnerships are a strong foundation for the Pre-K Counts program.

Many studies show that high-quality early childhood education matters for long-term success in school and life.

Research indicates that for every \$1 invested in high-quality early childhood education like Pre-K Counts, the commonwealth can save \$17 in future costs associated with special education, juvenile delinquency, school drop-outs, unemployment and crime.

Pre-K Counts is an investment in the future of our children and county that we will all benefit from.

York County should support Pre-K Counts.

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