

06/22/2007

Pre-K counts

EDITOR: The purpose of this letter is to voice my support for early learning opportunities for all young children and for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, the governor'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 in the 2007-2008 school year.

Studies show that children who attend high-quality pre-K enter school more prepared and achieve greater success. This means 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 makes sense. Pre-K helps foster a lifelong love of learning and who could argue with that?

Regardless of how you may feel about No Child Left Behind, the deadline is looming, and we don't have time to waste to ensure that all Pennsylvania children are proficient in math and reading.

I urge all readers to contact their legislators about pre-K investments in the state budget that will positively impact students, schools, and communities in Bradford and Sullivan counties, and the Commonwealth as a whole.

Aubrey Carrington

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(570) 297-4111 • Fax (570) 297-0421



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