

Dear Editor:

As a member of this community, I encourage everyone to support the state's proposed \$75 million investment in pre-kindergarten. If passed, the voluntary initiative would serve 11,000 3- and-4-year-olds in high-quality pre-K programs across the Commonwealth beginning in the 2007/08 school year.

Research shows that young children who are exposed to high-quality pre-K experience greater behavioral, emotional and cognitive development that increases their school readiness. They score better on standardized tests, have greater academic success, experience fewer grade retentions, need less special education remediation and are more likely to graduate from high school. Once they graduate from high school, they are likelier to earn family-sustaining wages, contribute to the tax base and require less welfare involvement than their peers who did not attend pre-K.

Without a doubt pre-K investments positively impact students, schools and communities in our area as well as across Pennsylvania. Let's support pre-K.

Sincerely,