

Dear Editor:

Because 90 percent of a child's brain development occurs before age 5, kids at this age are like little sponges - they love to learn!! So helping very young children harness this quest for knowledge is a wonderful thing: We can help our children get off to the right start through high-quality pre-K programs that foster a child's desire to learn.

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts serves nearly 12,000 3-and-4-year-olds at risk of education failure in high quality preschool programs this school year. Pre-K enhances the social, emotional, and cognitive readiness of tomorrow's students.

But, just 30% of our most vulnerable 3- and 4-year olds have access to high quality pre-K. The Governor's proposed budget would cut two of our most highly successful programs providing high quality pre-K for children at risk of education failure. I am urging our policymakers to restore \$1.2 million in funding for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts and the Head Start Supplemental Assistance program. We know pre-K works. There's landmark research to back it up. It's good for kids, schools and communities. Let's do the right thing.

Name

insert your contact info here