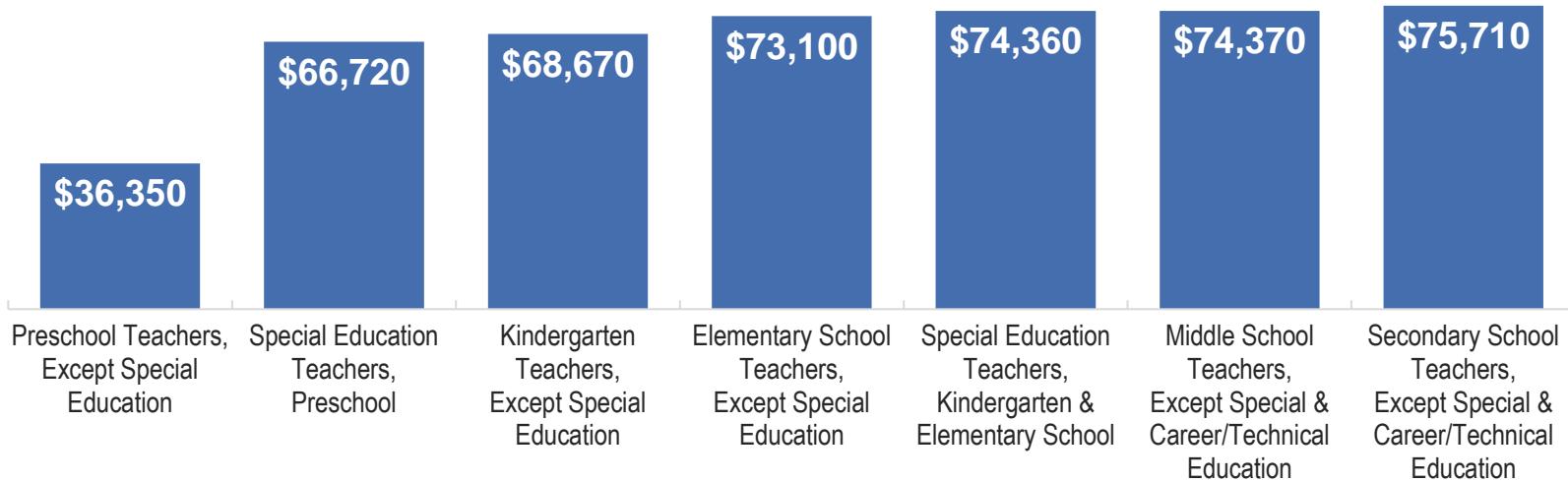


HIGH-QUALITY, PUBLICLY FUNDED PRE-K Butler County

Low Wages = Teacher Shortage



2023 PA Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, Mean Annual Salary

County		Pennsylvania
4,050	Population age 3-4	278,983
1,400 (35%)	Eligible children age 3-4*	151,325 (54%)
357	Eligible children with access	66,558
1,043	Eligible children without access	84,767
75%	Percent unserved	56%
104	Additional educators needed for eligible, unserved children	8,477
31	Eligible pre-k providers**	3,199
17 (55%)	Locations receiving public pre-k funds	2,432 (76%)
6	Pre-K Counts (PKC) providers	1,001
3 (50%)	PKC in high-quality child care	466 (47%)

*Eligible children live in families earning up to 300% of federal poverty level. Children with access includes those enrolled in high-quality providers using public funds to support their pre-k education.

**High-quality, publicly funded pre-k programs are offered through Head Start, Pre-K Counts, Philadelphia pre-k (PHLpreK), school district pre-k programs, and through child care provided in Keystone STAR 3-4 centers and group child care homes participating in the Child Care Works program for preschool-age children. Eligible providers include Head Start, Keystone STARS 3 and 4 center and group child care, PDE-licensed nursery schools and school districts.

HIGH-QUALITY, PUBLICLY FUNDED PRE-K

BENEFITS OF HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K



reduced grade repetition



increased graduation rates



reduced special ed placements



taxpayer dollars preserved



decreased crime and incarceration



stronger economy

Pre-K Counts teachers have their degree and teaching certification - just the same as school district teachers do. Our Pre-K Counts teachers could make significantly more (for the school year/school day hours only) and on top of that, be entitled to generous health and paid time off benefits. The state must invest in pre-k to get closer to pay parity.

- Abigail Enz-Doerschner,

Assistant Director, Once Upon a Time Early Learning Center,
Pre-K for PA and Start Strong PA Provider Advisory Board member

As part of the 2025-26 final state budget, Pennsylvania policymakers should:

- Support the proposed investment of \$15 million in Pre-K Counts to help stabilize early learning providers by boosting per child rates to help combat inflationary pressures and staffing shortages caused by low wages.
- Include an investment of \$9.5 million for the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program to help stabilize the Head Start workforce.



Campaign led by Children First, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, First Up, Mission: Readiness, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, Pennsylvania Head Start Association, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, Trying Together and United Way of Pennsylvania.

prekforpa.org

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4/2025