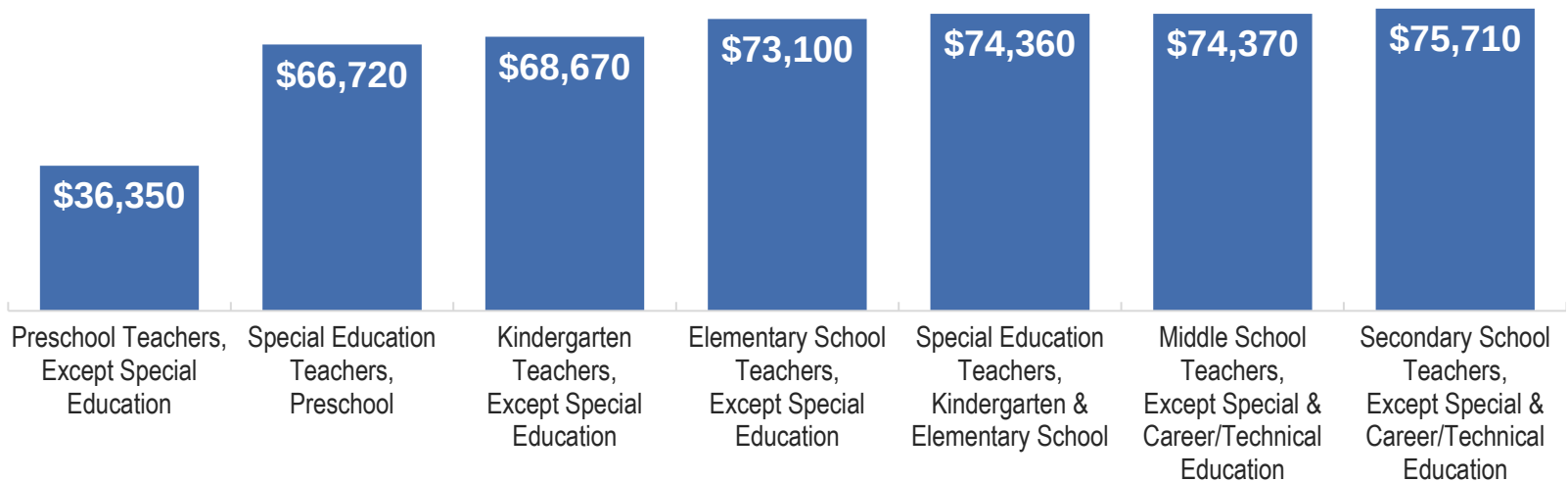


HIGH-QUALITY, PUBLICLY FUNDED PRE-K Lawrence County

Low Wages = Teacher Shortage



2023 PA Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, Mean Annual Salary

County		Pennsylvania
1,831	Population age 3-4	278,983
1,140 (62%)	Eligible children age 3-4*	151,325 (54%)
757	Eligible children with access	66,558
383	Eligible children without access	84,767
34%	Percent unserved	56%
38	Additional educators needed for eligible, unserved children	8,477
35	Eligible pre-k providers**	3,199
25 (71%)	Locations receiving public pre-k funds	2,432 (76%)
12	Pre-K Counts (PKC) providers	1,001
3 (25%)	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.



The Pre-K for PA vision is to ensure that all children can enter school ready to succeed by making high-quality pre-kindergarten accessible to every three- and four-year-old in Pennsylvania.

VISIT [PAPARTNERSHIPS.ORG/MAPPING-TOOLS](https://papartnerships.org/mapping-tools) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HIGH-QUALITY, PUBLICLY FUNDED PRE-K AND PROVIDERS IN THIS REGION

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

Data is provided by KIDS COUNT®: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children