

FAQ about the Pre-K for PA Campaign

What is the Pre-K for PA Campaign?

Pre-K for PA is a statewide advocacy campaign with the goal of expanding access to high quality pre-k programs for all of Pennsylvania's children. The campaign has worked since 2014 to increase the number of children who attend high quality pre-K programs by increasing Pennsylvania's investments in both the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP) and Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts (PKC), both of which are operated by many Head Start programs in PA. The Pre-K for PA vision is that every 3- and 4-year-old in Pennsylvania will have access to high-quality pre-k.

As a principle partner in the Campaign, PHSA is committed to keeping our members informed about what the Campaign is doing as well as linking interested PHSA members with Campaign activities so that they can have an impact in their community. There are different opportunities to match your interest and available time, and PHSA will provide materials and help, including \$ for time and travel. **After you sign up as a supporter**, let us know if you are interested in participating in any Campaign activities.

How does HS/EHS fit into the Pre-K for PA Campaign?

The Pre-K for PA Campaign is raising awareness about the positive impact that high quality pre-k has on children, families and communities. The Campaign focuses on the elements of a high quality program that lead to positive outcomes and recognizes that there are various programs available to Pennsylvania families that deliver high quality. Head Start, with its performance standards, focus on child development and parent engagement, is recognized as a high quality pre-k model that is best suited for working with our poorest, most vulnerable children and families. Additional investments in the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP) would mean that more Pennsylvania children would have access to high quality pre-k.

How is PHSA engaging programs in the Pre-K for PA Campaign?

PHSA is excited to participate in the Pre-K for PA Campaign and sees this as an excellent opportunity to grow our advocacy network within programs. We'll be working to engage Head Start programs to ensure that candidates for governor and legislature not only understand the need for additional investments in pre-k, but that they also understand the need for our most vulnerable families to receive those services in a Head Start model making it necessary to increase investments in the HSSAP. To engage each Head Start program in the Campaign in a way that makes the most sense for that program, PHSA has hired a PHSA Pre-K for PA Outreach Manager, Michelle Smith.

What is an Advocacy Liaison?

The PHSA Pre-K for PA Outreach Manager is working with Head Start directors to identify an Advocacy Liaison for their program. This can either be a staff member or a parent within your program who will assume this role. The Advocacy Liaison is the main point of contact between your program and the PHSA Pre-K for PA Outreach Manager. Working jointly together, they will identify ways that your program can be engaged with the Pre-K for PA Campaign. Once your program begins to engage in the Campaign, your Advocacy Liaison will work with the Outreach Manager to do

some basic tracking of your program's involvement. If you are interested in being a liaison, talk with your program administrator.

What do I, or my program, need to do to be engaged in the Campaign?

There are many ways that Head Start programs, staff and parents can become engaged in the Pre-K for PA Campaign. Our Outreach Manager will work closely with each program's Advocacy Liaison to identify the opportunities that make the most sense for your program, including:

- **Personal sign on to the Campaign** - Any individual can show his/her support for the Campaign by signing on as a member. Ideally, your Advocacy Liaison should work within your program to secure individual sign on from as many people at every level in your program: Governing Board members, Policy Council Members and other parents, managers and other staff. To sign on visit <http://www.paheadstart.org>. **Join the list serve and select the option to sign up as a Pre-K for PA supporter.**
- **Program Endorsement** – The Pre-K for PA website is equipped to have organizations endorse the Campaign. If you are in a position to speak for your organization, PHSA encourages you to have your Head Start program endorse the Campaign. You can do this at www.prekforpa.org. If your program does choose to endorse the Campaign, make sure that you indicate that you were referred by PHSA.
- **Governing Board Endorsement** – Depending on the structure of your organization, it may make sense to have someone who can represent your Governing Board become an endorsing organization at www.prekforpa.org. If your Governing Board does choose to endorse the Campaign, make sure that you indicate that you were referred by PHSA.
- **Policy Council Endorsement** – Your program's Policy Council is a recognized entity! It too can sign on as an endorsing organization at www.prekforpa.org. If your Policy Council does choose to endorse the Campaign, make sure that you indicate that you were referred by PHSA.
- **Community Partner Endorsement** – Your Head Start program is a vital part of your community and works on a daily basis with other organizations and businesses. Advocacy Liaisons are encouraged to work with others in your community to both endorse the Campaign as an organization and encourage individuals within the organization to sign on in support as well at <http://www.prekforpa.org>. Again, just make sure to have people indicate that they were referred to the Campaign by your Head Start program/PHSA.
- **Other Ways to Support the Campaign** – The PHSA Pre-K for PA Outreach Manager will work with the Advocacy Liaison to identify other ways that your program, staff and parents can be engaged. Regardless of how you choose to engage, it is important that your Advocacy Liaison works with our Outreach Manager to keep track of the activities that your program, staff and parents have participated in. Some possible ideas include:

- Submitting letters to your local paper that discuss the importance of quality pre-k for Pennsylvania, including how Head Start fills this role for low-income children and families
- Respond to letters in local paper that discuss pre-k in Pennsylvania with your show of support for the content and additional information about how your Head Start program is impacting your families and community.
- Attend Pre-K for PA events hosted by others in your community.
- Host an event that highlights your Head Start program as a quality pre-k provider.

How is the Pre-K for PA Campaign related to Early Learning PA (ELPA)?

Early Learning PA (ELPA) is a statewide, non-partisan campaign supported by a broad-based coalition from around the commonwealth committed to advocating for a comprehensive early childhood system that ensures that Pennsylvania's children, particularly its most vulnerable, have access to the education and support they need to enter school ready to learn. This comprehensive approach includes a broader policy agenda related to children and families birth to age 5 of which the high quality pre-k advocated for by Pre-K for PA is just a part. To find out more about ELPA, how it relates to Pre-K for PA and to learn more about the others aspects of its broader policy agenda, visit their website at www.earlylearningpa.org.

What should I do if I still have questions?

Although PHSA is excited to begin to engage programs more deeply around advocacy for quality pre-k, we understand that programs may still have questions about the Campaign and their program. Many of these questions can be answered during your initial phone call with our Outreach Manager, Michelle Smith.

As with anything that PHSA does, please don't hesitate to reach out at any time. You can call the Outreach Manager, Michelle Smith, at 717-508-4681, or email your questions to michelle@paheadstart.org.

Also as always, remind parents and staff to sign up for PHSA email so they are informed about the many things that are going on with Head Start.