

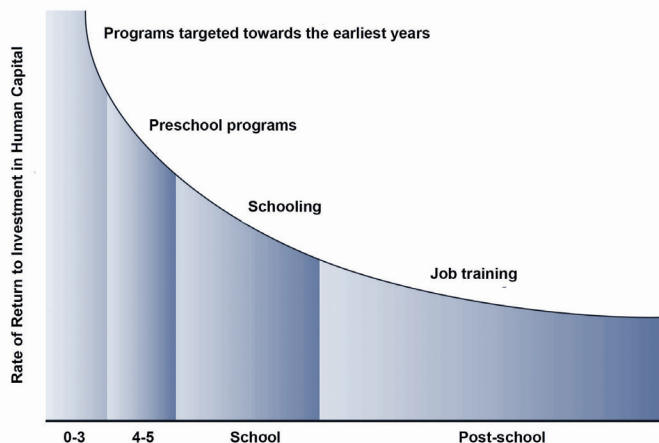
# OUR PRIORITIES

**Increase access to high-quality early learning services**

**Make government work better for families and early learning programs**

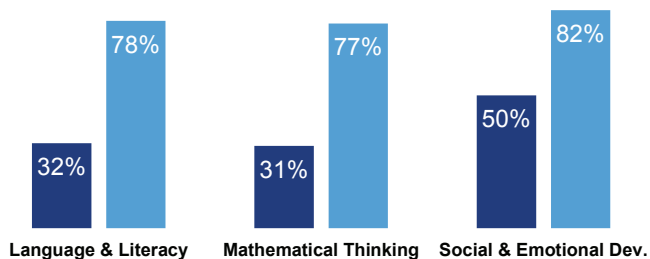
Providing young children with high-quality early learning services is proven to help children enter kindergarten with age appropriate skills and have school and career success. Our children's success translates into a more qualified workforce, reduction in public costs, and a stronger economy.

**10 percent return on investment in quality early childhood education.<sup>1</sup>**



**Quality early education helps children enter kindergarten with age-appropriate skills.**

**Percentage of 4-year olds in Keystone STAR 3 and 4 Programs with Proficient Skills**  
 ■ Fall 2013 ■ Spring 2014



After participating in high-quality, Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs, the percentage of 4-year-olds with proficient language, math and social skills doubled to 78 percent in 2013-14.<sup>2</sup>

**Of the nearly 730,000 children under age five living in Pennsylvania:**



**17% Participate in publicly-funded high quality early learning programs such as:**

- Evidence-based home visiting
- Keystone STAR 3 & 4 programs
- Head Start
- Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts<sup>3</sup>

# Increase access to high quality early learning services

## Building capacity of early learning programs to offer the high quality services that families need.

OCDEL has created a system to help child care/early learning programs improve their quality so they can meet the demand for programs like evidence-based home visiting and Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts.

Child Care Certification | Child Care Works | Early Head Start | Early Intervention | Head Start | Healthy Families America  
Keystone STARS | Nurse-Family Partnership | Parents as Teachers | Pre-K Counts

**99%**  
of children in MIECHV-funded  
home visiting programs received the  
recommended number of well-child visits.<sup>4</sup>

### Keystone STARS

Offers technical assistance and targeted financial supports to child care programs to improve quality and earn higher quality ratings.

**6%** increase in Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs in 2015 (1,170).

**serving 60,513 children**

### Increased STARS add-on rates for

- STAR 3 and 4 programs serving children receiving Child Care Works; and
- STAR 2-4 programs serving infants and toddlers to help offset the rate gap for high quality.

### Prenatal – Third Grade framework

to offer a continuum of high-quality services through the elementary grades.

### 34% increase

in children assessed by teachers using the Kindergarten Entry Inventory in 2015 (21,168 total).

### 62 Early/Elementary Education Teams

participated in four regional Governor's Institutes, "P-3 Collaboration: Working Together for Student Success."

**Supporting the Early Childhood Education workforce to serve children in high-quality programs.**

**300**

Early Childhood Education courses in 18 higher education institutions aligned to the new Core Knowledge Competencies through mini-grants.

**1,124**

Early Childhood Education teachers and directors in Keystone STARS programs completed college courses with Rising STARS Tuition Assistance program.

**13% increase**

in Early Childhood Education professionals with Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials in 2015 (7,111 total).

### Looking Ahead:

- Develop a cost estimation tool to understand the true cost of quality child care.
- Certify friend/neighbor caregivers receiving subsidy as family child care homes who then can participate in Keystone STARS.
- Re-vision Keystone STARS to streamline standards, refine sources of evidence to maintain rigor without rigidity and define STARS levels to quality.

# Increase access to high quality early learning services

## Making high quality services available to at-risk families

A report by the Nonprofit Finance Fund found the average cost per child in Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs in Philadelphia was more than \$12,000 a year.<sup>5</sup> For many families, the cost of high-quality early learning equals a rent or mortgage payment. OCDEL provides high-quality early learning opportunities at low- or no cost to at-risk families because of the return on investment.

### In Child Care Works

**83,000 working families**

receiving Child Care Works will experience more continuity of care in the face of a temporary illness or disruption in employment as re-determination of eligibility extends to 12 months.

**6% increase**

in children receiving Child Care Works enrolled in Keystone STAR 3 & 4 programs (nearly 28,000 in December 2015).

### Increased slots for quality early education programs free to eligible families in 2015

**39% increase** in Pre-K Counts slots in 2015-16 (18,800 total)

**21% increase** in Head Start Supplemental Program slots in 2015-16 (5,800 total)

### Looking ahead:

- Proposed expansion of evidence-based home visiting and quality pre-kindergarten.
- Using direct contracts for Child Care Works subsidy with Pre-K Counts and Head Start programs to meet the full-day, full-year needs of families.

## Community-building to serve more families

Providing Pennsylvania's children with quality early learning experiences is a collaborative effort of families, schools and communities that can produce a huge return on investment for all.

### Early Intervention

nearly  
**100%**

of infants and toddlers receiving early intervention services received them at home or in a community-based program in 2014-15.

more than  
**70%**

of preschoolers receiving early intervention services received those services in inclusive settings with typically developing children in 2014-15.

### 57 new STARS programs recruited

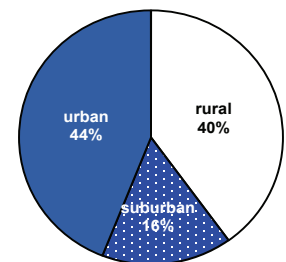
in 21 high-risk rural communities as part of Regional Keys Keystone STARS Rural Recruitment Initiative.

### 155 cross-sector organizations

have come together to Link Actions for Unmet Children's Health in Allegheny County and beyond as part of the PA Project LAUNCH grant.<sup>6</sup>

### 50 Early Childhood Education Community Innovation Zones

to increase family engagement, strengthen relationships between early childhood providers and schools to build birth – 3rd grade alignment, and strengthen community collaborations.



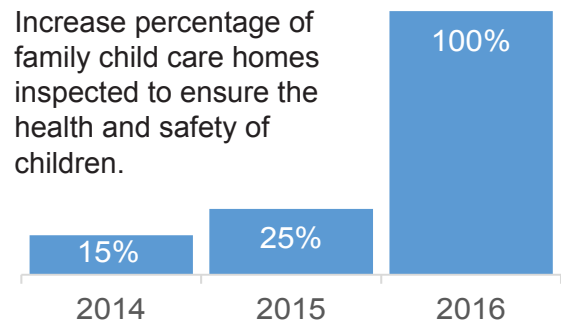
### Looking ahead:

- Proposal to welcome family centers into OCDEL.

# Make government work better for families and providers

Pennsylvania offers a variety of early learning services to meet the diverse needs of families. Now is the time to improve how these programs work together and how families access them.

Integrating OCDEL services so that	
Programs can offer multiple OCDEL services without duplicating paperwork.	Families can easily access the services they need.
<p><b>Nearly 1,000</b> staff, partners and providers have given feedback on ways to collaborate, coordinate, and integrate early learning services.</p>	



**15,865 child care inspections**  
(family, group, center) in 2015

## Using technology to make it easier to access early learning services and supports. In 2015:

- Through COMPASS:
  - 500 programs applied or renewed services.
  - Nearly 124,000 online child care searches.
- 1,200 families with free accounts in the Early Learning GPS guided their child's development.

## Looking ahead:

- Relaunch of COMPASS early learning program search.
- Recommendations from Integrated Services steering committee.
- Research Council to recommend data/research priorities.

<i>Vision</i>		
The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning supports families and their children, from prenatal through school age, by using data, research and stakeholder guidance to assure high-quality services.		
<i>Mission</i>		
The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) provides families access to high-quality services to prepare children for school and life success.		
<i>Goal 1</i>	<i>Goal 2</i>	<i>Goal 3</i>
Work effectively, collaboratively, creatively and successfully to ensure that all families have access to high-quality programs for their children.	Engage stakeholders in actionable ways that provide guidance on programs and policies.	Identify and use key data and research to improve policies and practices.
<b>The result: better outcomes for our young children and their families!</b>		

<sup>1</sup> letter from James Heckman to the National Commission for Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Reform, September 2010, <http://heckmanequation.org/content/resource/letter-national-commission-fiscal-responsibility-and-reform>.

<sup>2</sup> Based on program reports to the Early Learning Outcomes Framework for 4,533 children using an OCDEL-approved authentic assessment tool. In addition to aligning with Pennsylvania Standards for Early Childhood, the Framework was revised in 2013-14 to reflect the high quality academic expectations in the Pennsylvania Core Standards for Pre-Kindergarten for English Language Arts and Mathematical Thinking.

<sup>3</sup> 2014-15, Programs include Nurse-Family Partnership, Healthy Families America, Parents as Teachers, Head Start, Pre-K Counts, Keystone STAR 3 & 4.

<sup>4</sup> The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Partnering with Parents to Help Children Succeed, US Administration for Children and Families, <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/homevisiting/programbrief.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Overcoming Financial Barriers to Expanding High-Quality Early Care & Education in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Nonprofit Finance Fund, July 2015, <http://www.nonprofitfinancefund.org/research-resources/overcoming-financial-barriers-expanding-high-quality-early-care-education-southea>

<sup>6</sup> PA Project LAUNCH is a federal grant awarded to OMHSAS and DOH, with OCDEL as a supporting collaborator.