

Children's Progress Update: Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, 2012-13



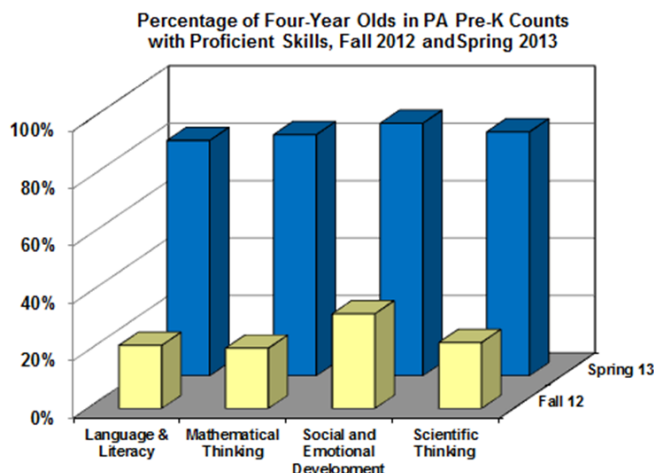
Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts provides high-quality pre-kindergarten services to 11,350 at-risk three- and four-year olds in the state so that they are prepared for school success.

Eligibility for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts includes children who are between age three to the entry age for kindergarten and living in families earning up to 300 percent of the poverty level. Grantees are instructed to prioritize enrollment to children most at-risk in their communities. For example, children may also be impacted by other risk factors, such as English language learning, participation in the child welfare system, or disability or developmental delay. As of March 2013, 67 percent of PA Pre-K Counts students are affected by at least one risk factor in addition to family income.

As part of the evidence-based standards of Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, teachers assess a child's progress throughout the school year and use this information to guide classroom instruction and inform and engage families in their child's learning.

The percentage of four-year olds with proficient academic and social skills tripled to 82 percent after participating in PA Pre-K Counts programs in 2012-13.¹

- The percent of children with proficient **language and literacy skills** increased from 22 percent in the fall to 82 percent in the spring.
- The percent of children with proficient **mathematical thinking skills** increased from 21 percent in the fall to 84 percent in the spring.
- The percent of children with proficient **social and emotional skills** increased from 33 percent in the fall to 88 percent in the spring.
- The percent of children with proficient **scientific thinking skills** increased from 23 percent in the fall to 85 percent in the spring.



Nearly all (95 percent) parents felt PA Pre-K Counts programs built on their child's interests and strengths and have used information on their child's performance to support their learning and development at home.²

My daughter Mackenzie has been attending the PA Pre-K Counts program for about seven months now and has had a fantastic experience. She is learning a lot of new things and enjoying every minute of her day there. She already can recognize all of her letters in the alphabet and she can count to 20 with no problems. She is very creative and has a great imagination and this program gives her the chance to express both of them.

Mackenzie is only four years old and already has a love for going to school and a love for learning. As parents, my husband and I could not be happier with this program and the way our daughter has adapted to going school.
Montgomery County family

¹ Based on program reports on indicators relevant to Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards for 5,148 children using an OCDEL-approved authentic assessment tool.

² Based on more than 2,300 responses to a 2011 family survey of families whose children were enrolled in PA Pre-K Counts programs.