FIGHT CRIME: Invest in Kids Pennsylvania

WE'RE THE GUYS YOU PAY LATER

High-Quality Early Education

A Key to Reducing Future Crime in Pennsylvania

Summary

Early education helps children get the right start in life, succeed in school, and avoid future crime. In addition, law enforcement leaders support high-quality early education as an effective strategy to save taxpayer money by reducing state corrections costs and other social services.

High-Quality Education Cuts Crime

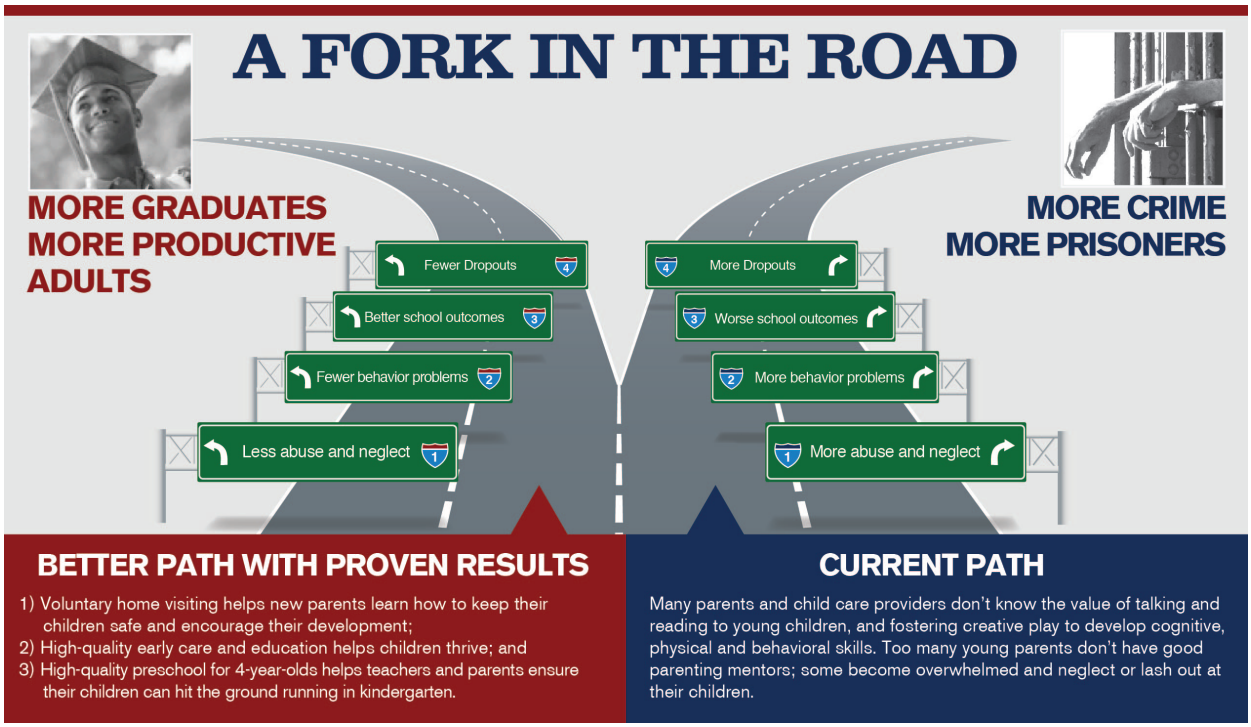
In addition to tough policing, prosecution and corrections, Pennsylvania needs to invest in programs that prevent kids from ever becoming criminals. As law enforcement leaders, we support effective investments that can make Pennsylvania's communities safer. Research has shown that high-quality early education is such an investment. For example:

- At-risk children not served by the Chicago Child-Parent Center program were 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18. By age 26, nonparticipants were 39 percent more likely to have spent time in jail or prison;
- By age 27, children not served by the Perry Preschool Program were five times more likely to be chronic offenders with five or more arrests; and
- In Pennsylvania, the percentage of three-year-old children in the Pre-K Counts



WHO WE ARE

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a nonpartisan anti-crime organization made up of nearly 5,500 law enforcement leaders and crime survivors, including almost 170 in Pennsylvania. Its sheriffs, police chiefs, prosecutors and crime victims promote greater public investments in programs proven to direct at-risk kids to a better path in life, leading them away from crime and towards success.



Preschool Program at risk for problematic social and self-control behaviors at program entry fell by 80 percent after participating. These reductions can dramatically reduce the number of children needing expensive special education and cut behaviors that can lead to future delinquency.

Early Education Can Increase Graduation Rates

Seven out of ten state prisoners nationwide, and almost half of those in Pennsylvania, do not have a high school diploma. Some high-quality programs have shown to boost high school graduation rates by 30 to 50 percent.

Early Education Saves Money

A well-respected, independent cost-benefit analysis of almost 20 different studies of high-quality pre-K programs showed that pre-K can return, on average, a "profit" (economic benefits minus costs) to society of nearly $30,000 for every child served.

A Fork in the Road

Our number one priority is protecting the safety of Pennsylvania's communities. We do this by arresting, prosecuting and, when necessary, incarcerating people who commit crimes. But ultimately our best opportunity to improve public safety is to invest in what works to prevent children from turning to crime and violence later on. To do so, we urge our elected leaders to substantially invest in high-quality pre-K programs, which have proven impacts on crime reduction and taxpayer savings.

Unfortunately, about 70 percent (123,000) of preschool-aged children in Pennsylvania at risk of school failure missed out in 2015 on high-quality, publicly-funded pre-K.

If Pennsylvania invests wisely now in pre-K, thousands of children can become successful, productive adults.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is part of the statewide Pre-K for PA Campaign

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PRE-K FOR PA
READY TO SUCCEED
AN INITIATIVE OF EARLY LEARNING PA

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