



## **Strong Start KY: Quality Pre-K for Every Child**

Making high-quality preschool available to every Kentucky child is the goal of **Strong Start Kentucky: Quality Pre-K for Every Child**, an initiative of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and a growing coalition of partners.

Strong Start Kentucky is a nonpartisan, citizen-led effort to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive the highest-quality education possible.

Working with parents and policymakers in partnership with leaders from early childhood, business, education, religion and health care, our efforts focus on giving Kentucky's children a strong start in both public and community-based programs.

Our advocacy targets:

- Funding to increase access to pre-k programs for three- and four-year old children
- Enhancing the quality of all pre-k programs
- Support for public and community-based programs
- Expanding our coalition to create champions for preschool throughout the Commonwealth

Strong Start Kentucky was launched in March 2007 with the support of Pre-K Now, a public education and advocacy organization that advances high-quality, voluntary pre-k for all three and four year olds. Pre-K Now is supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts and other funders and is a project of the Institute for Educational Leadership.

### **You Can Help!**

- **Learn more:** [www.strongstartky.org](http://www.strongstartky.org)
- **Advocate with colleagues, Chambers of Commerce, civic groups.**
- **Contact your legislators in support of quality preschool for Kentucky's children.**
- **Join us to give more Kentucky children a strong start.**

## **Strong Start Kentucky: DATA**

**63% of mothers with children under 6 are in the workforce.**

**Of the 277,000 children birth – 5 years (2006):**

- 21 % live in poverty (\$20,650/yr for a family of four)
- 46 % live below 200% of poverty (\$41,300/yr)
- 11% live in below 50% of poverty (\$10,325/yr)

**State-funded preschool serves (2006-07):**

- 23,072 3- and 4-year-old children
  - Of those, 12,906 children are eligible because of a disability

**Head Start serves:**

- Nearly 16,500 children in 33 programs serving all 120 counties

**35% or about 38,000 3- and 4- year-old children are served in Kentucky's preschool program or Head Start.**

**Child care:**

- 2,100 licensed child care facilities serving children 6 weeks – school age
- 43,000 children receive child care assistance (at 150% of poverty level)

**Cost Benefit Analysis of Pre-K:**

- Long-term follow up studies of targeted model programs report a return of \$4 to \$16 dollars for every dollar invested

**Children who attend high-quality preschool are less likely to:**

- Depend on public assistance,
- Become teenage parents
- Endanger their health by smoking.
- Be incarcerated as adults
- Need special education services

**Children who attend high-quality preschool are more likely to:**

- Go through school without repeating a grade
- Complete high school without dropping out
- Be employed and have higher earnings as adults
- Demonstrate higher academic achievement