



**Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children  
Statewide Survey Results**  
*May 22 – 23, 2018*

**Q.** Do you think things in Pennsylvania are headed in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?

Right direction	38%
Wrong track	40%
Unsure/Refused	22%

**Q.** How important do you believe early childhood education is to helping people lead healthy and productive lives?

<i>Total Important</i>	94%
<i>Total Not Important</i>	4%
Very important	82%
Somewhat important	12%
Not very important	2%
Not important at all	2%
Unsure/Refused	2%

**Q.** How familiar are you with education programs known as preschool, pre-kindergarten, or pre-k?

<i>Total Familiar</i>	80%
<i>Total Not Familiar</i>	19%
Very familiar	48%
Somewhat familiar	32%
Not very familiar	13%
Not familiar at all	6%
Unsure/Refused	1%

Currently in Pennsylvania, public funding is available for some low- and moderate-income families to help afford pre-k programs for their 3 and 4-year-old children. Pre-k is offered through both public and private entities, such as community childcare centers, Head Start programs, private nursery schools, and local school districts.

**Q.** Do you favor or oppose allocating additional funding for pre-k programs in Pennsylvania?

<i>Total Favor</i>	75%
<i>Total Oppose</i>	18%
Strongly favor	53%
Somewhat favor	22%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	12%
Unsure/Refused	6%

Now I am going to read you a series of public policy issues facing Pennsylvania. Please tell me how important you believe each of these issues is to Pennsylvania's future.

**Q.** Making college more affordable to decrease the burden of student debt.

<i>Total Important</i>	86%
<i>Total Not Important</i>	11%
Very important	68%
Somewhat important	18%
Not very important	5%
Not at all important	6%
Unsure/Refused	2%

**Q.** Investing in pre-k to help put children on a path of appropriate development and academic success.

<i>Total Important</i>	85%
<i>Total Not Important</i>	13%
Very important	60%
Somewhat important	25%
Not very important	7%
Not at all important	6%
Unsure/Refused	1%

**Q.** Improving the economy and attracting jobs to Pennsylvania.

<i>Total Important</i>	99%
<i>Total Not Important</i>	1%
Very important	87%
Somewhat important	12%
Not very important	1%
Not at all important	0%
Unsure/Refused	0%

**Q.** Treating and preventing drug addiction to help combat the opioid crisis.

<i>Total Important</i>	86%
<i>Total Not Important</i>	6%
Very important	72%
Somewhat important	14%
Not very important	3%
Not at all important	3%
Unsure/Refused	7%

Now I am going to read you a series of statements about pre-k and the importance of early learning. After each statement please tell me whether you agree or disagree.

**Q.** To be prepared for kindergarten, it is important for children to acquire foundational knowledge such as recognizing numbers and letters, and identifying colors and shapes.

<i>Total Agree</i>	91%
<i>Total Disagree</i>	7%
Strongly agree	72%
Somewhat agree	19%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	2%
No opinion	1%
Unsure/Refused	0%

**Q.** Private pre-school programs can cost more than a thousand dollars per month, in some cases exceeding the cost of tuition at a public university. We need to invest in pre-k programs to lighten this burden on low- and middle-income families.

<i>Total Agree</i>	74%
<i>Total Disagree</i>	20%
Strongly agree	51%
Somewhat agree	23%
Somewhat disagree	4%
Strongly disagree	16%
No opinion	5%
Unsure/Refused	1%

**Q.** Because 3- and 4-year olds are undergoing rapid development and have a large capacity for learning and knowledge, we need to invest in pre-k to ensure that we make the most of these critical years.

<i>Total Agree</i>	82%
<i>Total Disagree</i>	16%
Strongly agree	59%
Somewhat agree	23%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	11%
No opinion	1%
Unsure/Refused	1%

**Q.** It is necessary for children to learn the appropriate behaviors and social skills in order to succeed in school.

<i>Total Agree</i>	94%
<i>Total Disagree</i>	4%
Strongly agree	80%
Somewhat agree	14%
Somewhat disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	3%
No opinion	1%
Unsure/Refused	1%

**Q.** Increased investment in pre-k would provide savings in long-term costs by reducing education remediation, high school drop-out and crime rates.

<i>Total Agree</i>	69%
<i>Total Disagree</i>	22%
Strongly agree	45%
Somewhat agree	24%
Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	14%
No opinion	5%
Unsure/Refused	4%

**Q.** While lawmakers have devoted great attention to post-secondary and college education for many years, they have not provided enough resources for pre-k programs even though early childhood development is as important as college to an individual's success in life.

<i>Total Agree</i>	69%
<i>Total Disagree</i>	21%
Strongly agree	45%
Somewhat agree	24%
Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	13%
No opinion	6%
Unsure/Refused	4%

**Q.** Socioeconomic changes over the last 50 years have resulted in a greater number of single-parent homes and families with two working parents. Though they may have been unnecessary in previous generations, publicly-supported pre-k programs are now needed to ensure that children in modern America receive the education and developmental tools they need before they enter kindergarten.

<i>Total Agree</i>	77%
<i>Total Disagree</i>	19%
Strongly agree	52%
Somewhat agree	25%
Somewhat disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	13%
No opinion	3%
Unsure/Refused	1%

**Q.** If given the choice, which would you prefer: a tax cut or an increase in funding for pre-k?

Tax cut	39%
Funding for pre-k	48%
Unsure/Refused	13%

**Q.** How willing would you be to pay an additional \$50 per year in taxes so that every child eligible for pre-k in Pennsylvania could attend?

<i>Total Willing</i>	64%
<i>Total Not Willing</i>	33%

Very willing	42%
Somewhat willing	22%
Not very willing	9%
Not willing at all	24%
Unsure/Refused	4%

**Q.** Did you send your children, or are your children currently enrolled, in a pre-k program?

Yes	35%
No	44%
Do Not Have Children	19%
Unsure/Refused	3%

## Demographics

### Type of Phone

Mobile	30%
Landline	70%

### Gender

Female	53%
Male	47%

### Age

18 to 34	17%
35 to 44	13%
45 to 54	17%
55 to 64	21%
65 to 74	17%
75 or older	15%

### Party Registration

Republican	39%
Democrat	45%
Independent	13%
Unsure/Refused	3%

### Marital Status

Single	42%
Married	55%
Unsure/Refused	3%

### Children under 18 at home

Yes	24%
No	75%
Unsure/Refused	1%

### Education Level

High school or below	3%
High school graduate	24%
Technical or vocational school graduate	13%
College graduate	38%
Post graduate degree	21%
Unsure/Refused	1%

**Ideology**

Very Conservative	18%
Somewhat Conservative	24%
Moderate	22%
Somewhat Liberal	16%
Very Liberal	14%
Unsure/Refused	7%

**Race**

White	80%
Black or African-American	10%
Another race	6%
Unsure/Refused	4%

**Custom by County**

Scranton/Lehigh Valley	14%
South Central	19%
Northern Tier	13%
Pittsburgh/Southwest	20%
Philadelphia/Southeast	34%

**Media Market**

PHILA	41%
WILKES-BARRE	11%
ERIE	2%
PITTSBURGH	23%
JOHNSTOWN	7%
HBG	14%
NON-PA	2%

**General Election Vote History**

0	2%
1	21%
2	16%
3	17%
4	43%

*METHODOLOGY: The sample size for the survey is 549 likely voters in Pennsylvania and the margin of error is +/- 4.18%. Responses were gathered via landline and mobile phone interviews conducted by live callers at a professional call center. The survey was conducted May 22 – 23, 2018 by Harper Polling. The total percentages for responses may not equal 100% due to rounding.*