

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leechburg Area School District

Now Accepting Enrollments for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts for 2016 School Year

Leechburg Area School District is now accepting applications to enroll eligible families and their children in its free Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts early childhood education program.

A state-funded initiative that enables school districts, Head Start providers, child care centers and nursery schools to deliver high-quality pre-kindergarten to three- and four-year-old children, Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts is available at no cost to eligible families. Children must be between age three and the entry age for kindergarten and living in families earning up to 300 percent of the poverty level (family of four with gross income of \$71,550). Children may also be impacted by other risk factors, such as English Language Learners, family in the child welfare system, or having disabilities or developmental delays.

All children deserve the opportunity to learn so that they may grow up to become successful in school and in life. Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts provides a solid foundation to help children realize their full potential for a brighter future not just for them, but also their families and communities.

There are **20** full-time slots available for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts in **Leechburg**. These slots are all expected to fill quickly and there will be a waiting list, so families are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

Families interested in enrolling their children in Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts should contact **Matthew Kruluts** at 724-842-0571 (ext. 102) or **Michelle Ferretti** at 724-842-0571 (ext. 103) to discuss the application process and to arrange a visit to tour the facility and experience a quality early childhood classroom in action. Classrooms will fill up quickly, so enroll today!

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts classrooms are all required to have qualified teachers with the education and expertise to teach young children, small class sizes, a curriculum aligned with the Pennsylvania Early Learning standards, regular assessment of children's progress and program performance reports. 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.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Learn more about quality early learning and find personal stories from real Pennsylvania families about the benefits of quality at www.papromiseforchildren.com.