



Pledge for Philadelphia's Children

Studies show that annual increases in education spending lead to higher graduation rates, higher wages and reduced poverty. Recent budget cuts threaten to reverse these trends.

I pledge to be a champion of our schools by annually directing sufficient City resources to ensure the operation of a high quality school district and aligning City resources to support the School District's success.

Participation in high quality Pre-K programs greatly improves children's academic and social skills while increasing the likelihood of high school graduation and college enrollment while decreasing crime and incarceration. But two-thirds of Philadelphia's children do not have access to high-quality Pre-K.

I pledge to devote City resources annually to achieve universal access to affordable, high quality Pre-K for every 3- and 4-year-old child by 2020 and increase City health and social services to new parents who need extra supports.

More than 120,000 children live in poverty in Philadelphia and more than 60,000 live in deep poverty, making the city the poorest big city in America. Quite simply, their families do not make enough to afford proper food, care and safe housing.

I pledge to establish a minimum wage consistent with other big cities with reasonable incremental increases. Further, I pledge to employ City resources to guarantee that every young person has worked in at least one job before they graduate high school so they are prepared for success in the workforce.

I pledge to expand City participation in childhood hunger prevention programs such as free summer meals and work with the District to expand school meal participation.

I pledge to guarantee all children and their parents have access to the healthcare they need and to upgrade our City healthcare centers to meet those needs. I will invest in the training needed to ensure that every healthcare and child welfare provider is prepared to meet the needs of youth and families who have suffered from trauma.

With proper planning and integration, the City can increase the number of children entering fourth grade as strong readers, increase housing stability for households with children, reduce childhood homelessness and decrease the number of children entering the criminal justice system.

I pledge to create a robust Office of Children's Services Integration and direct every City agency to submit a four-year "Children's Strategy" to improve child outcomes.

Philadelphia has many amazing resources to entertain its children, from museums to sports teams to gyms and fields. But too often, they are unavailable to the city's poorest or those that serve the poorest children are in the poorest condition.

I pledge to increase the share of our poorest children who can affordably access our great museums and sports teams and upgrade our public recreation centers.

Signature

Date

Signed pledges may be scanned and emailed to: donnac@pccy.org