

Philadelphia Daily News
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Letters to the Editor

On early education

Your recent editorial, "The Case for Younger Schoolchildren," highlighted the vitally important issue of early-childhood education, and the need to implement policies to ensure that Philadelphia's children can enter school and start learning at an earlier age.

Current law does not require children to enter school until the age of 8. Pennsylvania is one of only two states with this archaic policy.

Research shows that the earlier children start learning, the more advanced their academic and social development. Children who enter school later are at a higher risk of being retained and dropping-out.

This is one of the issues that the Mayor's Commission on Children supports as critical to improving the lives of Philadelphia's children, youth and families. We are working to assure that this issue and others that affect our city's most vulnerable children remain in the public eye and become among the most prominent priorities for all of Philadelphia's leaders, including mayoral candidates.

Our city's future lies in the promise of its children. When we invest in their education, the entire community benefits. The returns on these investments include reduced dropout rates and delinquency, decreased special-education costs and the development of a well-educated workforce and citizenry for our community.

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