SUMMIT's Head Start Impact

2025–2026 • Snyder, Union and Mifflin Counties

SUMMIT Early Learning serves 332 Head Start children in Snyder, Union and Mifflin Counties. Investment in Head Start and Early Head Start supports children's development and families' stability. These local results show what that investment accomplishes.

Children build skills for school

Literacy increased 25 percentage points and math increased 24 percentage points. SUMMIT reported gains in all six developmental areas.

Developmental area	Fall 2025	Spring 2026	Percentage Point Increase
Literacy	66%	91%	**+25**
Math	65%	89%	**+24**
Language	80%	90%	**+10**
Social and emotional	80%	93%	**+13**
Cognition	84%	95%	**+11**
Physical	86%	96%	**+10**

Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment gains from Fall 2025 to Spring 2026. Gains are percentage points, not relative percentage increases.

Families receive support and pursue opportunity

122 Early Head Start families received services promoting family outcomes, including housing assistance, mental health services, health and nutrition education, and parenting curriculum.

61% of enrolled Head Start and Early Head Start parents were employed or participating in job training or higher education.

35 current & former Head Start parents are now employed by SUMMIT, connecting family participation with local employment.

Head Start contributes to the regional economy

More than $10 million in estimated annual regional economic impact from SUMMIT's Head Start programs, based on Pennsylvania Head Start Association (PHSA) calculations.

SUMMIT employs 260 staff across its early learning and family service programs, supporting jobs in Central Pennsylvania.

What we ask Pennsylvania legislators to support

Preserve and strengthen state investment in the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program and Pre-K Counts, alongside child care funding that helps Pennsylvania families access early learning and participate in the workforce.

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Sources: Child skill assessments — Teaching Strategies GOLD, Fall 2025 to Spring 2026, as reported by SUMMIT. Family data — SUMMIT Early Learning, 2025–2026. Estimated annual regional economic impact — Pennsylvania Head Start Association (PHSA) calculations. Assessment gains describe change over time and do not establish causation.