

## PSBSA welcomes new members

Formed in 1963 as a department of PSBA, the Pennsylvania School Board Solicitors Association (PSBSA) is one of the nation's largest and most active state associations of school attorneys, and today serves nearly 500 school attorneys in member law firms throughout the commonwealth.

PSBSA's board of directors is starting 2017 with several newly elected members. Officers of the organization include: **President Patrick J. Fanelli Esq.** of *Fanelli Willett Law Offices*, Duncansville; **President-Elect Erin D. Gilsbach Esq.** of *King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul*, Bethlehem; **Secretary Andrea C. Parenti Esq.** of *Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham*, Butler; and **Immediate Past-President Carl N. Moore Esq.** of *Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett*, Erie.

New regional directors include:

- Region 11: **Amy T. Brooks Esq.** of *Wisler Pearlstine, LLP*, Blue Bell
- Region 15: **Katherine H. Meehan Esq.** of *Raffaele & Puppino*, Media

To see a list of all regional directors or to learn more about the Solicitors Association, please visit [www.psba.org/legal/solicitors-association](http://www.psba.org/legal/solicitors-association).

The Solicitors Association is looking forward to the upcoming year of programs and information regarding legal developments in school law. Upcoming programs include these:

- March-May 2017 - Spring Legal Roundup, various locations
- July 13-14, 2017 - Solicitors' Symposium, State College, PA
- Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017 - School Law Workshop, Hershey, PA

In addition to school solicitors, administrators and school directors also attend these programs. Stay tuned for more information.

## Studies show pre-K benefits

### Long-term gains

Many studies have shown that children who participate in pre-K programs are better prepared for success when they enter school. New research, published in the Nov. 17 issue of the journal *Child Development*, shows that quality preschool does more than just benefit children as they enter kindergarten - the academic gains may last through fifth grade and possibly, longer.

The research studied almost 1 million students in North Carolina who attended state-funded early childhood education programs between 1995 and 2010. Researchers followed them through grade 5. The study showed that these programs resulted in higher test scores, a lower chance of being retained in a grade and a fewer number of children with special education placements. The benefits grew or were steady over time. Even when the results were broken down into subgroups by race and income, all groups showed gains.

For the maximum benefit, quality is the key. North Carolina's state-funded pre-kindergarten program, called NC Pre-K, has been praised by the Learning Policy Institute as exemplary for its small class sizes, student-directed learning and open-ended play. In an NPR.org article on the research, the lead author of the study, Kenneth Dodge, director of the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy, stated that the long-term impact of early childhood education programs "depends entirely on quality and how well elementary schools build on the foundations set in pre-K." Read the full article with a link to the study in the Education section of NPR.org.

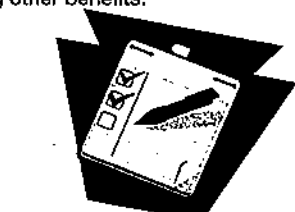
### Greatest gains for low-income children

In a separate study, Nobel Prize winner and longtime early childhood education advocate James Heckman showed that the benefits of quality pre-K education are even greater for low-income children who are in such programs from infancy to age 5. The study indicated that these children are more likely to graduate from high school, less likely to be incarcerated than their counterparts who stayed home or enrolled in low-quality programs, had higher IQs, and were healthier during the course of their lives.

In the study, Heckman estimates that the rate of return on investment in high-quality programs from infancy to age 5 is 13% per year, higher than the estimate for programs that start at age 3. According to a Dec. 12 *Washington Post* article on Heckman's research, the new study is based on results from two North Carolina programs that began in the 1970s and then tracked their graduates' lives through age 35. The two programs - the Carolina Abecedarian Project and the Carolina Approach to Responsive Education - were very similar, caring for low-income African-American infants from 8 weeks old to age 5. As a requirement of the programs, the children received regular checkups, which also boosted long-term health outcomes, among other benefits.

## Keystone Quiz

1. What percentage of the PA population has a bachelor's degree or higher?
2. How many people are in the workforce?
  - a. 4.1 million
  - b. 6.4 million
  - c. 900,000
3. What is the record high temperature?
4. What percentage of the workforce carpools to work?
5. PA has the \_\_\_\_- largest state economy.



- Answers:
5. sixth
  4. 8.5%
  3. 111 degrees
  2. b
  1. 29%