Montgomery County Preschool Promise

Affordable High Quality Preschool for All

Recommendations to
The Montgomery County Commission
November 17, 2015
The Big Vision

All Montgomery County Children are ready for kindergarten and have the foundation needed for success in school and life.
The Power of Preschool

Kids who go to High Quality Preschool are more ready for kindergarten and do better on 3rd grade reading
The Gap

About 25-30% of our 4-year-olds do not attend Preschool at all, and of those who do, less than half are in high-quality
Because Preschool is an important building block for a child’s success, we will promise every child in Montgomery County the opportunity to attend at least one year of affordable, high quality Preschool.
The Big Preschool Goal

Double the number of children who attend a *high quality* Preschool in the next 10 years, moving from 35% to 70%
Guiding Principles

• Families are most important
• Preschool Promise must foster continuous quality improvement.
• A Preschool Promise must be simple for families to access and administratively efficient for Preschools to join.
• Funding a Preschool Promise is a shared responsibility
• Transparency is essential.
Montgomery County Preschool Promise

**Pillars of Success**

**Teaching young children can’t wait.** Ensuring that every child can attend one year of high quality Preschool is an investment in our future. Preschool benefits all children – improving their readiness for kindergarten and helping them start school on track. Children who start behind too often stay behind. High quality Preschool saves money now and later. It’s the first step in building the pipeline of educated workers we need to keep and attract good jobs.

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**Educate** the community about the power of Preschool

- **To drive enrollment in Preschool**, families must know the value and impact of high quality Preschool
- **To drive public and private, personal and philanthropic investment in Preschool**, citizens must understand how Preschool pays off

**Expand** the availability of high quality Preschools

- **To drive results**, families must have high quality Preschool choices
- **To drive achievement**, Preschool programs must have a culture of continuous improvement based on the latest research
- **To drive more and better choices**, Preschool programs must be supported and rewarded for improving quality

**Assist** families in finding and paying for Preschool

- **To drive children’s school readiness and success**, Preschools must be affordable and easy to access

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**The GOAL**

Double the number of children who attend a high quality Preschool in the next 10 years, moving from 35% to 70%
Recommendations

1. Create a simple registration process for finding and enrolling in Preschool

2. Offer tiered tuition based on income and quality level to all families who choose a high quality Preschool

3. Foster high quality and continuous improvement

4. Track and measure results

5. Require accountability
Preschool Promise Investment

Countywide
Estimated Investment: $12M-$16M/year
Children Served: 3,500-4,000

Demonstration
Estimated Investment: $2.7 million/year
Children Served: 600-800
Montgomery County Preschool Promise
Investing when it matters most