

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 12-0695

Declaring Monday, September 24, 2012 as Denver Preschool Program Day

WHEREAS, in 2006 Denver voters approved a sales tax to create the Denver Preschool Program; and

WHEREAS, on the occasion of the Denver Preschool Program's fifth anniversary, tuition support from this sales tax has now helped more than 25,000 Denver families send their four-year-olds to the quality preschool of their choice; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Preschool Program has helped more than 250 preschool partners improve their quality through ratings and funding; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Preschool Program helps nearly 6,000 children - or 70 percent of Denver's four-year-olds - attend high-quality preschool each year; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Preschool Program has become one of the highest enrolled programs of its kind anywhere in the country; and

WHEREAS, independent evaluation says that each year the vast majority of Denver Preschool Program children leave the program ready for kindergarten – socially, emotionally and academically; and

WHEREAS, the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child concludes that “early development of cognitive skills, emotional well-being, social competence, and sound physical and mental health builds a strong foundation for success well into the adult years”; and

WHEREAS, a skilled and productive work force lays the foundation for a strong economy; and

WHEREAS, every dollar invested in quality preschool can save a community as much as \$10 in the long-term in the form of reduced grade retention, reduced juvenile delinquency, and reduced dependence on social welfare programs; and

WHEREAS, the Committee for Economic Development suggests that business leaders and policy makers should consider “investment in young children one of the most effective strategies to secure the future economic strength of their communities and the nation”.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That Denver City Council declares Monday, September 24, 2012, as Denver Preschool Program Day to celebrate five years of accomplishments and a promising future for Denver's children.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Denver Preschool Program.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL September 24, 2012

PRESIDENT