



Denver Preschool Program Reauthorization

Denver City Council
Finance & Government Committee
May 2, 2023

Denver Preschool Program

- **17 Years Young**

- Over 65,000 Denver children helped to attend preschool
 - Denver's participation rate in preschool is double the national average
- 2021-2022 More than **\$18.3M in tuition credits**
 - 4,330 approved applications for 4-year-olds
 - Piloted 3-year-olds - 353 children
 - Average funding for 4-year-old = \$788/month
 - 55% of students receiving tuition credits were at or below the two lowest federal household income tiers
 - DPS preschools received \$9.26M and community sites received \$9M
- 269 providers received more than \$1.6M in quality improvement funding
- 1,763 staff members received \$402,475 in workforce stipends (\$130,450 came from Office of Children's Affairs)
- \$2.3M in DPP Scholarships for \$0 out of pocket costs for the lowest income families (339 kids, avg family income \$2,500)





- In the process of launching now - last week the first round of family matches were announced
- Provides 15 hours a week for four-year-olds
- Some 4-year-olds MAY qualify for additional hours
- DPP is managing CO UPK for Denver
- DPP tuition credits will fill in the remaining hours for families
- Allows DPP to expand the 3-year-old pilot





Denver Preschool Program Non-Profit Corporation

- Manages Denver Preschool Tax
 - Manages CO UPK for Denver
- 

Ordinance Changes

1

Reauthorization:

- No \$ increase
- Remove sunset

2

Additional Purpose:

- Allow DPP \$ to also be spent on “Grants and technical assistance to individuals and organizations seeking to obtain licensure to provide preschool care or education programs or services in Denver.”

3

Definitions:

- Considering DPP’s role with Universal Pre-K
 - Remove “Denver Residents” from who the **corporation** can support - the **Denver preschool tax will still only fund Denver residents**
 - Restate preschool programs means early care or education programs for children from birth through kindergarten enrollment
 - Role of the auditor with regards to CO UPK

Polling Results

WITHOUT INCREASING TAXES, SHALL THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER EXTEND THE EXISTING 0.15% SALES AND USE PRESCHOOL TAX, WHICH AMOUNTS TO 15 CENTS ON A \$100 PURCHASE, FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE SUCCESSFUL DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM IN ORDER TO INCREASE ACCESS TO QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE FOR DENVER CHILDREN?

