



# 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
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# Ordinance Changes

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## Reauthorization:

- No \$ increase
- Remove sunset

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## 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.”

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## 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?

