



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

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?

