

# Dayton/Montgomery County Preschool Promise

## Vision

All Montgomery County and Dayton children are ready for kindergarten and have the foundation needed for success in school and in life.

## Mission

Because Preschool is an important building block for a child's success, we will work to promise every child in Montgomery County the opportunity to attend at least one year of affordable, high quality Preschool. That commitment requires providing tuition assistance to families and helping Preschools continuously improve the quality of their programs.

## Guiding Principles

1. Families are a child's most important teacher.
2. To ensure the greatest return on investment, a Preschool Promise must foster continuous quality improvement.
3. The Preschool Promise must be simple for families to access and administratively efficient for Preschools to join.
4. Funding the Preschool Promise is a shared responsibility, and we must leverage all available financial support, including federal, state, and local public dollars, as well as private investment.
5. Transparency in how funds are spent is essential.

### STAY IN TOUCH:

[f/PreschoolPromiseMC](https://www.facebook.com/PreschoolPromiseMC) [t/PSPromise\\_MC](https://twitter.com/PSPromise_MC) [i/Preschool\\_Promise](https://www.instagram.com/Preschool_Promise)

preschool  
PROMISE



## Success Pillars

**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. High quality Preschool saves money now and later. It's the first step in building the pipeline of educated workers we need to keep good jobs.

### 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

## The GOAL

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

Revised 7-19-2017

# Ramping up the Dayton/Montgomery County Preschool Promise

## Task Force Recommendations (November, 2015)

- 1. Offer tuition assistance to all.** Tuition assistance should be available to all families and tiered based on need and quality, starting at 1-Star programs under Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* rating system.
- 2. Enroll 4-year-olds first.** Priority should be given to children in their last year before kindergarten and then to low-income 3-year-olds.
- 3. Ensure families have choices.** Public and private Preschools should be eligible to participate. Parents should have a "one-stop shop" for accessing tuition assistance.
- 4. Foster continuous quality improvement.** Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* system should be the backbone for determining quality. Preschools should receive support to improve, with special attention given to ensuring that all neighborhoods have high quality programs.
- 5. Track results to ensure education outcomes improve.** Success should be measured by the increase in the number of children who attend a high quality Preschool and benchmarks around children improving their readiness for kindergarten and their success in 3rd grade.
- 6. Require accountability.** A Preschool Promise should be administered by an independent, non-governmental organization, including representation from families, Preschools, childcare experts and funders, with oversight by County officials.

## Making the Preschool Promise real

In 2016-17, our Preschool Promise demonstration that began in the suburb of Kettering expanded to Northwest Dayton.

In 2016-17, more than 800 children attended Preschools that received free help to improve their instruction. Teachers received more than 2,000 hours of individualized coaching.

In November, 2016, Dayton voters overwhelming approved a 1/4% income tax increase to fund city services and make the Preschool Promise available to all Dayton families.

More than 70 Preschool sites joined the 2017-18 Preschool Promise.

All unrated Preschool Promise programs are on track to receive a Star Rating under Ohio's voluntary Step Up to Quality rating system.

Preschool Promise became a stand-alone 501(c)(3), spinning off from our community's cradle-to-career initiative, Learn to Earn Dayton.

A Parent Advisory Board was established to ensure our policies and practices honor our families' needs.

### What we're learning

- **Helping Preschools improve their quality is critical.** Providing free coaching and professional development are essential.
- **Many of our high-need families already are receiving free or reduced-cost Preschool.** Tuition assistance does not benefit them. But they desperately need convenient, higher quality Preschool choices.
- **Educating families about attendance is paramount.** Many families don't appreciate that to be ready for kindergarten, children need to be at Preschool every day and on time.
- **Outreach to families and recruitment is a "ground game."** Families trust the word of other families.
- **Our messages to families and the public** have to connect the dots between Preschool, kindergarten readiness and our children's success in school.