

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, Preschool Promise must foster continuous quality improvement at participating Preschools.
3. Preschool Promise must be simple for families to access and administratively efficient for Preschools to join.
4. Funding 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.

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 11-14-2018

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 2017-18, Preschool Promise expanded, becoming available throughout the City of Dayton and Kettering.

In 2017-18, more than 1,300 children enrolled in Preschool Promise, while over 4,000 young learners attended participating providers where staff benefited from free coaching and intensive professional development.

More than 70 Preschool sites have joined Preschool Promise.

Our Spring 2018 Child Bracken Scaled Scores showed Preschool Promise children neared or surpassed the national average.

Children made significant gains on the Minnesota Executive Function Scale (measuring social-emotional growth), but fell shy of the national average.

In 2017-18, teachers received more than 2,500 hours of free personalized coaching, and 100 teachers participated in a 9-month Professional Learning Community. 160 teachers are in a PLC this year.

In 2017-18, nearly 600 of just over 850 eligible Dayton families joined our Star Attendance initiative, resulting in their receiving \$25 rewards each month their child had 90% or better attendance.

What we're learning

- **Helping Preschools improve their quality is critical.** Providing free coaching and professional development are essential.
- **We have urgent challenges around bridging the racial educational achievement gap.** While last year all children made significant gains in their learning, we didn't narrow the gap between white young learners and African-American Preschoolers even when we controlled for poverty and socio-economic factors.
- **Conscious Discipline® training is wildly popular with teachers** and, when practiced faithfully, is transformational to the classroom environment.
- **Educating families about attendance is paramount.** Last year children whose families participated in Star Attendance had better attendance and made stronger gains.
- **While ensuring programs earn and increase their Star Ratings**, this important distinction is only one element of ensuring quality programming.