

preschool PROMISE

Preschool Promise Funding

Preschool Promise, Inc., is an initiative in Montgomery County, Ohio, designed to help children start Kindergarten on track and be ready to learn. It "promises" one year of affordable, high quality Preschool to families who choose to send their 4-year-old to a participating Preschool Promise provider in Dayton or the City of Kettering, a Dayton suburb.

In time, the goal is to make Preschool Promise available throughout Montgomery County. Our County has 500,000 residents, with an estimated 6,500 children turning 4 each year. The largest concentration of children lives in Dayton, the region's center city.

Preschool Promise is promoting Kindergarten readiness by:

- Educating our community about the positive impact of high quality Preschool on children's Kindergarten readiness.
- Increasing the quality of instruction at Preschools and expanding the number of high quality Preschool seats.
- Assisting families in finding and paying for high quality Preschool.



All families who have a child turning 4 by September 30 of the requisite school year and who live in Montgomery County are eligible to join Preschool Promise. They must enroll their child in one of more than 70 participating Preschool Promise programs. Their options include school district Preschools, Head Start programs, commercial child care providers and family child care providers.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Debbie Lieberman, Montgomery County initiated Preschool Promise pilot programs in 2014-15 and 2015-16. The pilots were funded with support from Montgomery County, the Kettering City School Board and the City of Kettering.

In 2016-17, Montgomery County invested \$1.2 million to expand Preschool Promise beyond Kettering and offer the program in Northwest Dayton. An additional \$1.1 million was raised from private and public funders to support the expansion. Contributors included the City of Dayton, the City of Kettering, Kettering City Schools, Dayton Public Schools, The Dayton Foundation, CareSource Foundation and other private donors.

In 2016, Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, a champion of Preschool Promise, took up the challenge of identifying sustained funding to offer Preschool Promise citywide. Mayor Whaley and her four fellow city commissioners asked Dayton voters to approve a 0.25% earned income tax increase, the first increase in 32 years, to support Preschool Promise; to improve police and fire protection; for street repairs; to more frequently mow vacant lots.

The [8-year levy](#), which will raise an estimated \$11 million annually, passed overwhelmingly in November 2016 with 54% of the vote. Today Preschool Promise has \$4.3 million in dedicated annual funding to support Dayton's young learners.

For more information, visit preschoolpromise.org or contact Robyn.Lightcap@learntoearndayton.org.