

Declaration of Support



_____ affirms that:
(Organization)

All children have the right to equitable learning opportunities that help them achieve their full potential in school, work, and life. Investing in high-quality Pre-K is a means of advancing social and racial equity in our educational system and enhancing the well-being and success of our increasingly diverse community.

Nearly half of all children entering school in Forsyth County are at risk of falling behind their peers in reading. Expensive programs, long waitlists, and systemic inequities keep many children—particularly low-income children and children of color—from accessing high-quality programs.

Brain science has confirmed that the first five years of life are especially critical for the construction of a child’s developing brain, laying the foundation for future social, emotional, and cognitive development.

Numerous longitudinal studies have demonstrated that high-quality Pre-K programs prepare children for a positive school experience, reduce achievement gaps, and provide long-lasting benefits that continue into adulthood.

.....

HOWEVER, only a third of the 4,500 four-year-olds in Forsyth County are currently enrolled in publicly-funded, quality Pre-K programs that are constituted to serve children in low-income households. A third more are eligible for these programs, but are unable to participate due to the lack of state and federal funding. In fact, families in our county from across the income spectrum struggle to find and pay for Pre-K.

This situation is not acceptable for our children, their parents, and the future economic vitality of our community. Therefore:

- **We support increasing the availability of high-quality Pre-K programs in our community by adding classroom capacity as needed and enabling existing programs to improve their quality.**
- **We support the establishment of uniform standards for high-quality Pre-K programs that are offered through a mixed system of both public and private Pre-K providers so that families can choose the setting that best meets their needs.**
- **We urge state and local governments to make Pre-K a priority in their annual budgets so that high-quality Pre-K can be an affordable and accessible option for all families in Forsyth County.**
- **We call on Forsyth County elected officials to establish a Community Early Childhood Education Task Force to develop both a near-term and long-term plan for increasing the availability of high-quality Pre-K programs in Forsyth County.**
- **Finally, we value and appreciate the dedicated work of the teachers, staff, and administrators who educate young children and support compensation practices consistent with their importance to our community.**

Name (printed)

Date

By signing this Declaration, I agree that my organization may be listed in publications of Family Services as a supporter of the Pre-K Priority.