

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1-17

PRE-K ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, Philadelphia's investment in expanded quality Pre-Kindergarten will provide opportunities for thousands more children to get the start they need to put them on track for educational success; and

WHEREAS, neuroscientists attest that 80-90% of a child's brain develops in the first five years of life; therefore, quality early education can help our most vulnerable children break the cycle of poverty by capitalizing on the tremendous learning potential of three- and four-year-olds; and

WHEREAS, children who participate in two years of quality pre-kindergarten demonstrate higher rates of academic achievement, high school graduation, college attendance and employment than their peers; and

WHEREAS, these children require less academic remediation, grade repetition, and special education, and are less inclined toward involvement with the juvenile justice system than their peers; and

WHEREAS, quality pre-K reduces the need for special education services, thus saving millions of dollars; according to the City's Pre-K Commission, the School District of Philadelphia could save approximately \$72 million over the length of a grade cohort's K-12 school years, if all children participated in quality pre-K; and

WHEREAS, until this month, only one in three preschool-age children in Philadelphia had access to quality pre-kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor proposed, and City Council approved, an expansion of quality Pre-K seats through the Fiscal Year 2017 budget and the imposition of the Sweetened Beverage Tax; and

WHEREAS, this program expansion should be guided by experts in early childhood education and child development, and advised by community stakeholders who understand the needs of Philadelphia and its youngest citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES F. KENNEY, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, by the powers vested in me by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, do hereby order as follows:

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRE-K ADVISORY BOARD

There is hereby established a Pre-K Advisory Board to assist in the implementation and oversight of the City's expansion of quality Pre-K across Philadelphia.

SECTION 2. ROLE OF THE PRE-K ADVISORY BOARD

The Pre-K Advisory Board will support and oversee the City's implementation of City-funded quality Pre-K. The Advisory Board will advise on enrollment processes, monitoring of providers, adherence to quality standards and other activities intended to ensure the success of Pre-K in Philadelphia and ensuring school readiness for the City's three- and four-year-olds.

SECTION 3. COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF THE PRE-K ADVISORY BOARD

- (a) The Pre-K Advisory Board shall be composed of no more than thirteen members, seven of whom, including the Chair, shall be appointed by the Mayor and up to six of whom may be appointed by the Council President.
- (b) Appointees shall have experience in early childhood education, philanthropy, child welfare, childhood development, childhood behavioral health, medicine, higher education or represent critical stakeholder or community interests.
- (c) The following individuals, or their designees, shall serve as non-voting ex-officio members of the Advisory Board:
 - (1) The Chief Education Officer
 - (2) The Deputy Managing Director for Health and Human Services
- (d) The Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia shall be invited to serve as an ex-officio member of the Advisory Board in the same capacity as those listed in subsection (c) of this Section.
- (e) All members of the Advisory Board shall serve two-year terms, at the pleasure of their appointing authority. All initial terms shall begin on the effective date of this Order. Terms of all members shall expire on successive two-year anniversaries of the effective date of this Order.

SECTION 4. COOPERATION

- (a) All City Departments, Agencies, Boards, and Commissions shall cooperate with the Advisory Board, and shall provide any data it may reasonably require.
- (b) Any City contract with an Intermediary to facilitate the provision of Pre-K services shall require the Intermediary to cooperate with the Advisory Board and to provide it with any data it may reasonably require, and shall further require the Intermediary to include sufficient terms in its other contracts, including contracts for the provision of Pre-K Services, so that the Intermediary may obtain such data as needed.

SECTION 5. ANNUAL REPORT

- (a) The Advisory Board shall submit an initial report to the Mayor and President of City Council by July 15, 2017, proposing goals and metrics by which the Pre-K Program should be measured annually. The Chief Education Officer shall consider such proposal in adopting goals and metrics.
- (b) The Advisory Board shall submit an annual report to the Mayor and President of City Council by no later than July 15th of each year beginning in 2018. The report shall contain at a minimum:
 - (1) Review and accounting of the overall program budget;
 - (2) Measurable goals achieved in the previous year, and planned for the following year;
 - (3) Review of aggregate child and program outcomes.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Date 1/11/17

James F. Kenney, Mayor