



Fresno County Voluntary Preschool Master Plan



FAQ Sheet

Visit us at www.fcoe.org/ece

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Community-at-Large

Q: What does the research show?

A: Study after study has shown high-quality preschool programs are a proven investment in children's success. High-quality preschool generates \$7 to \$17 on every dollar spent by saving government spending on education, the criminal justice system, public assistance, and by increasing tax revenues.

Q: How can preschool positively affect our economy?

A: The current economic situation reinforces the need for prudent investment in high-value programs like preschool that build global competitiveness and improve children's chances to succeed as students and citizens. Preschool is a vital strategy for economic recovery and long-term economic strength.

Q: How can we afford preschool expansion with the current State budget deficit?

A: Even with the State's challenging budget outlook, we must remember that educating young children is an investment in the State's future. Now is the time to lay the groundwork for strategic investments in the future, raising standards so that when new funds become available we have a system that will provide access to high-quality preschool for the kids who need it most.

Q: Will implementation of the Fresno County Voluntary Preschool Master Plan affect my taxes?

A: No.

Parents

Q: Does the Plan mean a "free" preschool experience for all four year-olds?

A: No. The Plan is a blueprint for quality and access, and as funding becomes available, the county will be uniquely prepared for opportunities to increase access to high-quality preschool programs. Free or subsidized child care is available for income eligible families by applying through the Centralized Eligibility List. Applications are available at www.fcoe.org/ece. For more information call 456-1100.

Q: How can parents who choose to keep their 4 year-olds at home be included?

A: Agencies providing voluntary preschool will collaborate to provide workshops and resources to parents.

Early Care and Education Community

Q: How does the Plan affect family-licensed providers?

A: The Plan is inclusive of all early care and education providers, serving children 3-5 years old.

Q: Is priority given to preschool programs operated by the public school system?

A: No. However, the Plan acknowledges that our efforts will be targeted toward the communities with the lowest performing API schools in the county.

Q: How will entities finance new facilities and equipment?

A: The FCOE Early Care and Education Division will act as a resource for all interested entities to pursue funding opportunities.

Q: How does the Plan include faith-based programs?

A: The Plan is based on parental choice, so faith-based programs will have access to all of the benefits included in the Plan.

Q: Will specialized training (example: working with special needs students) be provided for ECE staff?

A: Partnerships will be established with community-based and state-wide organizations already offering specialized training and work to develop and expand training opportunities.

Q: How binding will the education expectations for early care and education professionals be?

A: The Plan addresses workforce development and will adhere to the requirements established by the State.