



Fresno County Voluntary Preschool Master Plan



Key Points

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Voluntary Preschool Key Points

1. The Fresno County Voluntary Preschool Master Plan is an incredible opportunity for the community to help ensure a successful future for our children.
2. The Plan is driven by four distinct areas of emphasis: Program Quality & Monitoring, Parent & Community Engagement, Articulation & Coordination and Workforce Development.
3. The Plan is a countywide community effort to improve the quality of preschool programs and increase access to all four year-olds in Fresno County.
4. There are 15,000 four year-olds in Fresno County. Almost 4,000 preschool spaces are needed, of which 2,000 are in areas of low performing schools.
5. Three qualities characterize the Plan: voluntary, inclusive and collaborative.
6. There are many partners already involved: League of Women Voters Fresno County, First 5 Fresno County, Preschool California, Packard Foundation and Great Valley Center, as well as educators from all levels P – 16.
7. The community has conveyed a keen interest in seeing quality preschool opportunities for Fresno County children, as evidenced by the Community Conversations conducted in 2006.
8. The 2007 Economic Impact Report of the Early Care and Education Industry in Fresno County makes the case that Early Care and Education is vital to our economy because it generates more than \$200 million annually, provides over 8,500 jobs and lays the groundwork for our future economic success by preparing the next generation for success.
9. Effective preschool programs are one of the most promising investments we can make in our children, our schools and our economy.
10. Preschool is a vital strategy for economic recovery and long term strength. 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.