



A

DECADE

OF

PROGRESS

Dear Friends, Community Members,
& Preschool Advocates,

This year's annual report carries deep significance, marking a milestone: *a decade of progress for* PRE4CLE

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Over the past ten years, our dedicated staff, partners, and preschool programs have united with a singular mission—to ensure the success of Cleveland's youngest learners. The impact we've made together stands as a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we collaborate with purpose and dedication, all in service of our community's future.

In the last ten years, Cleveland's preschool landscape has seen remarkable transformation. We've welcomed new voices, celebrated major victories, and faced ongoing challenges, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic. Many preschool providers have struggled with staffing shortages, resulting in closed classrooms and lengthy waitlists, which have affected children and families across the city. Nevertheless, the number of high-quality preschool programs in Cleveland has surged—from 71 to 241—and the percentage of preschool-aged children enrolled in these programs has nearly doubled, rising from 24% to 43%.

Advocacy has been central to PRE4CLE's strategy to expand access to high-quality preschool. In 2024, we dedicated time and resources to explore the



economic impact of child care, a critical issue for our community. The groundbreaking Driving Growth: The Economic Impact of Child Care in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County report, created in collaboration with Early Matters NEO, sheds light on a pressing reality: 55% of parents report that child care is not accessible, and 78% say access to care is a barrier to work. These findings underscore the undeniable role of child care as both the backbone of our economy and a cornerstone of our early learning system.

In addition, PRE4CLE continued to build strong partnerships with families and preschool programs to expand access to high-quality education citywide. In the 2023-2024 school year, we collaborated with 129 preschools to enhance quality and enrollment. A highlight of our efforts was the Early Learning Spaces program, which partnered with six sites to provide facility renovations and professional development. Moreover, PRE4CLE has strengthened its outreach to families through family-centered events, multi-media engagement, and connections to vital community partners.

Our community is fortunate to have such a committed coalition of public agencies, early learning programs, and community organizations working in tandem to improve the lives of our preschoolers. The spirit of collaboration that has guided our journey remains a powerful source of inspiration. While we've made significant strides, there is still much to be done.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and expertise. As we look ahead to the next decade, we are energized by the opportunity to pursue PRE4CLE's goals with sustainability, equity, and the collective strength of our community. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future for Cleveland's 3- and 4-year-olds, ensuring they have the best possible start in life.

With Gratitude,

Warren D Morgan II
Marcia Egbert
Katie Kelly



Co-Chairs, PRE4CLE Steering Committee:

Dr. Warren Morgan

CEO, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Marcia Egbert

Program Director, Thriving Families and Social Justice, The George Gund Foundation

Executive Director, PRE4CLE:

Katie Kelly

43%

enrolled in high-quality preschool programs

129 preschools

partnered to enhance quality and enrollment

Ten Lessons from PRE4CLE's *First Decade*

Ten years ago, a group of community leaders came together to form PRE4CLE, a collaborative preschool initiative tasked with taking on the preschool portion of *Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools* (The Cleveland Plan). Amid a city-wide reset on education, this ambitious plan set out to focus on how to prioritize preschool. At the time, only 15 percent of children were entering Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) fully prepared for kindergarten, and only 24 percent of preschool-aged children were enrolled in high-quality preschool.

As PRE4CLE celebrates ten years of service to the Cleveland community, we reflect on the lessons learned during this pivotal decade. Our journey has been shaped by both challenges and successes as we worked toward building a high-quality preschool education system accessible to all Cleveland children. Here are the top ten lessons we've learned that guide us into the future.

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1: Community Partnerships are Vital

One of our strongest lessons has been the power of collaboration. By creating a partnership that includes Cleveland's schools, early childhood centers, community organizations, government leaders, and families, we were intentional about breaking down silos and creating a collective impact that none of us could achieve alone. Strengthening these partnerships has been key to rapidly expanding early learning opportunities in Cleveland.

2: Build on What's Working

By enhancing and expanding early childhood efforts already in place in Cleveland, the lead partners of PRE4CLE sought to expand preschool in a way that was efficient, impactful, and sustainable—ultimately seeking to avoid duplication and maximize the assets already in place. Local public and private partners worked together to expand successful initiatives already underway, such as CMSD's preschool program and Cuyahoga County's UPK model, while also leveraging existing resources to increase the number of highly rated preschool programs across the city.

3: Support the Entire Preschool System to Expand Options for Children & Families

Instead of creating a new preschool model, PRE4CLE aimed to elevate the quality of all preschool options in Cleveland—including school-based preschools, child care centers, home-based child care, and Head Start settings—by focusing on increasing the number of programs meeting high standards and creating new preschool seats in every setting. Additionally, by focusing on the entire system instead of one program, a broad range of public and private resources can be targeted for the expansion of quality preschool.

4: Quality is Key

High-quality preschool is a game changer. It prepares children not only for kindergarten but for lifelong success. Our community's commitment to advancing the highest standards, from curriculum to teacher training and classroom environments, has proven to create better outcomes in academics, social-emotional development, and future success.

5: Use Data to Drive Improvement

Tracking our progress and outcomes has been critical to our success. By analyzing enrollment rates, classroom quality, and student readiness, we've been able to refine our strategies, identify gaps, and make data-driven decisions. This commitment to data helps us be responsive and adapt to meet evolving community needs.

6: Supporting Educators Supports Children

A high-quality early education system depends on well-trained and supported educators. Over the past decade, we've learned that investing in our teachers—through professional development, mentoring, and competitive compensation—results in better experiences for students. Educators are the backbone of our mission, and their well-being is directly tied to student success.

7: Family Engagement is Critical

Engaging families in meaningful ways has taught us that when parents and caregivers are active partners in choosing the right preschool option for their child, children are able to thrive in preschool environments that meet their unique needs. PRE4CLE worked to cut through the complexity of the preschool system, offering streamlined information, resources, and connections to partners like Starting Point to provide customized recommendations for finding a preschool option.

8: Adaptability is Essential

The past decade has shown us the importance of being flexible and adapting to changing circumstances. Whether it was adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic, responding to shifts in funding, or meeting the evolving needs of families, our ability to pivot quickly has kept us resilient and able to continue serving Cleveland's children.

9: Advocacy Can't Be Overlooked

We've learned the power of advocacy in creating lasting change. Over the years, PRE4CLE has engaged in policy efforts at the local, state, and national levels to secure funding, advance early childhood education policies, and protect the interests of young learners. Advocacy has amplified our impact and expanded opportunities for Cleveland's children.

10: The Work is Never Done

Perhaps the most important lesson of all is that there is always more to do. While we celebrate the successes of the past decade—thousands of children enrolled in quality preschools, improved kindergarten readiness, and stronger early learning systems—we know the work is ongoing. New challenges will arise, and new opportunities will emerge. We are committed to continuing this important work, ensuring that every child in Cleveland has the foundation for a bright future.

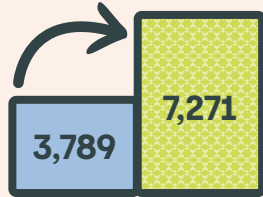
Looking Ahead: The Next Decade

As we move into the next phase of our work, PRE4CLE is more committed than ever to advancing early childhood education in Cleveland. These lessons will guide us as we innovate, adapt, and advocate for the needs of our youngest learners and their families. Together, we can build a brighter future for all.



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The state of preschool in Cleveland continues to face challenges, but with the ongoing commitment of this community, our partners, and especially the preschool providers, *we also see several bright spots.*

Available High-Quality Preschool Seats has grown from 2014-2024



The number of high-quality preschool¹ seats available in the city of Cleveland has nearly doubled since PRE4CLE began a decade ago! There are now enough high-quality preschool seats to serve 68% of the city’s preschool-aged children. Yet, despite this progress, local, state, and federal policy decisions continue to pose risks to this momentum. Preschool providers are facing mounting financial challenges in delivering the high-quality education and care that families need and children deserve.

Enrollment trends reflect this tension. Preschool programs struggle to attract and retain qualified staff, resulting in classroom closures, fluctuating hours, and instability for children due to high turnover rates. Although overall enrollment is nearing pre-pandemic levels, some families are still opting for early care and education options outside of the formal preschool system.

On average, only 64% of available high-quality preschool seats are filled, far below the 85% industry benchmark that most high-quality programs met prior to 2020. Furthermore, enrollment is also inconsistent across the city, with some programs facing long waiting lists while others are chronically under-enrolled.

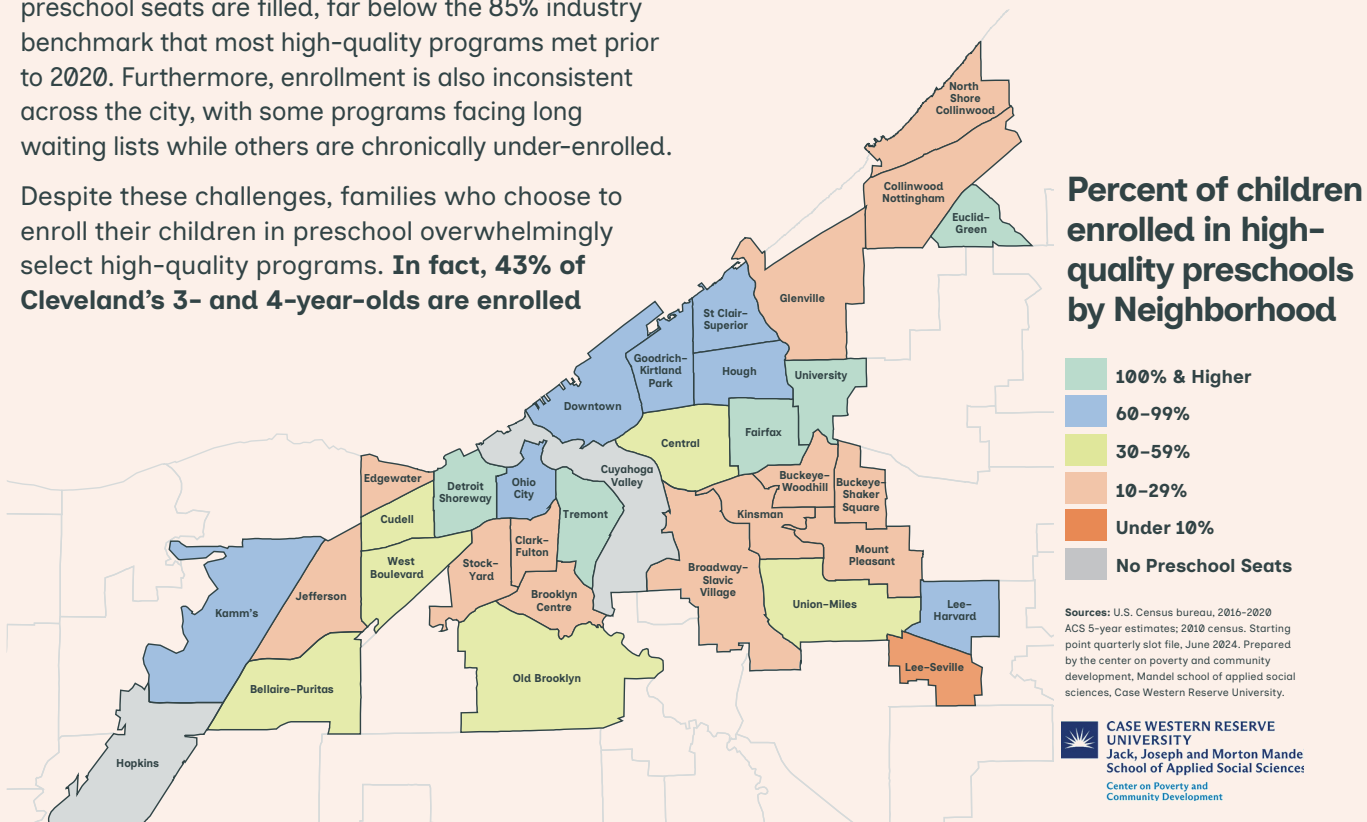
Despite these challenges, families who choose to enroll their children in preschool overwhelmingly select high-quality programs. **In fact, 43% of Cleveland’s 3- and 4-year-olds are enrolled**

in programs with high-quality ratings. Enrollment rates in the high-quality rated programs far exceed rates in lower and unrated programs.

Furthermore, the commitment to quality remains strong: Cleveland is home to 241 high-quality preschool programs—nearly three and a half times more than a decade ago. More than half of those programs exceed the baseline Step Up To Quality standards, qualifying to be part of the PRE4CLE network, including all of CMSD’s preschool classrooms.



Capacity, Enrollment, and Preschool Provider Rating Data provided by Starting Point.



¹High-quality preschools include those that were rated 3, 4, or 5 stars in Ohio’s Step Up To Quality Rating system as of June 30, 2024. Lower quality preschools are those that have received 1- and 2-star ratings. Population data based on the U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS 5-year estimates; 2020 Census.



Kindergarten Readiness Trends

Cleveland’s ongoing investment in high-quality preschool continues to pay dividends, as evidenced by local trends in Ohio’s Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA).²

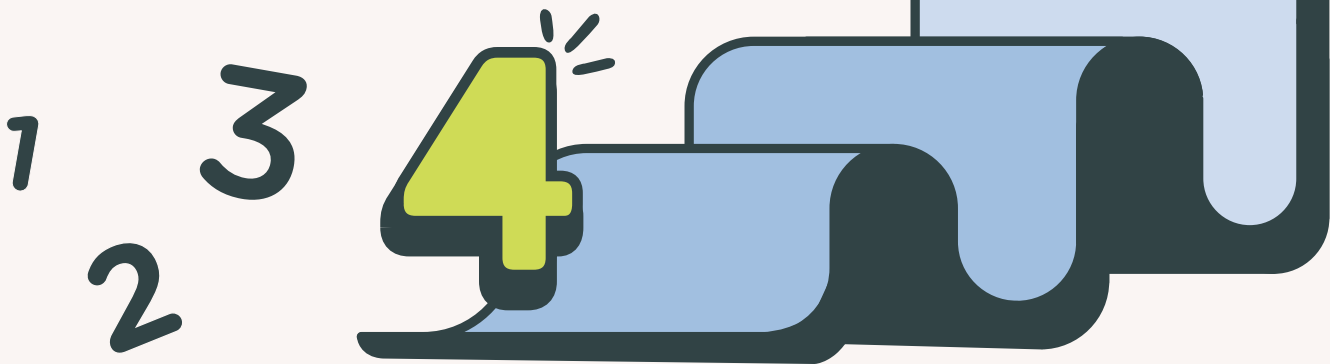
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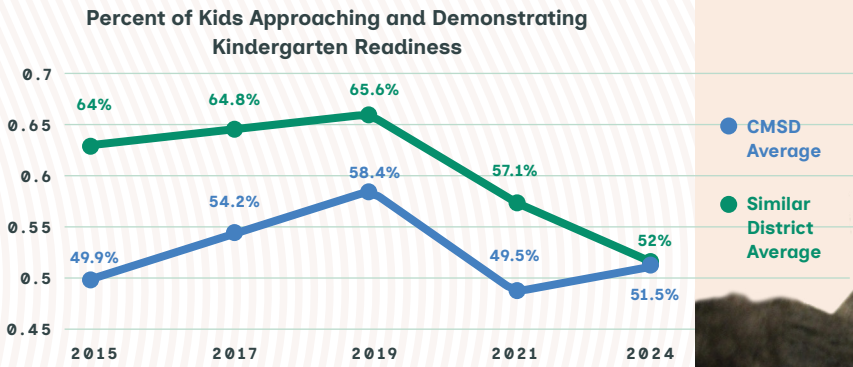
In today’s preschool classrooms, we see an ongoing impact from the pandemic. Students entering preschool today were born just before or during the first year of the pandemic, with much of their early life taking place during lockdowns. The developmental, academic, social, and emotional impacts of these early experiences are likely to be studied for years to come. But we can begin to see these impacts locally in KRA trends.

Unsurprisingly, KRA scores dropped dramatically in the years following the initial pandemic lockdowns. For kindergarteners in Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) schools, there was an 8.9 percentage point drop in the number of students Approaching or Demonstrating kindergarten readiness and a 17.7 percentage point drop in the number of students On Track in Language and Literacy. The percentages of students in each of these categories were lower than when we began tracking KRA trends in 2015.³

Children who are Kindergarten Ready demonstrate:

- ✓ Early literacy & math skills
- ✓ Positive interactions with teachers & peers
- ✓ The ability to succeed in a classroom environment
- ✓ Enthusiasm for learning





While these are discouraging results, in the years since 2020, we see a steady uptick in both categories, indicating that as students are able to return to school and receive high-quality preschool, more are entering kindergarten ready to succeed.

What is more promising is that, when compared to the average percentages in similar school districts,⁴ Cleveland’s kindergarteners showed a slightly less precipitous post-lockdown dip in overall kindergarten readiness and greater increases in the years following lockdowns.⁵ This year, CMSD kindergarteners nearly closed the gap that had persisted with similar districts in the percent of kids approaching and demonstrating kindergarten readiness and completely closed the gap in the percent of kids on track in language and literacy. Considering that many of these comparison districts did not invest in high-quality preschool at the same level, these trends may suggest that Cleveland’s commitment to high-quality preschool served as a level of inoculation against some of the impacts that the pandemic had on young children and better equipped us to support recovery. We will continue tracking these trends over time and support additional research in this area.

² For more information about Ohio’s Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, visit <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Kindergarten/Ohios-Kindergarten-Readiness-Assessment>

³ In this analysis, we focused on children who attended preschool in the 2014–2015, 2018–2019, 2020–2021, and 2022–2023 school years and attended CMSD for kindergarten beginning in the falls of 2015, 2019, 2021, and 2023 respectively. These children were given the KRA upon their entry to kindergarten in the fall. The total sample of children in CMSD kindergarten classrooms who took the KRA are as follows: Fall 2015 N=2,460; Fall 2019 N=2,747; Fall 2021 N=2,006; Fall 2023 N=2,177

⁴ See <https://reportcardstorage.education.ohio.gov/data-download-2024/Similar%20District%20File.xlsx?sv=2020-08-04&ss=b&srt=sco&sp=rlx&se=2031-07-28T05:10:18Z&st=2021-07-27T21:10:18Z&spr=https&sig=nPOvW%2Br2caithi%2F8WhYwU7xqalHo0dFrudeJq%2B%2Bmyuo%3D>

⁵ Annual District KRA Data obtained from <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/download>



Expansion
& Access



10

years of
partnerships



32

Cleveland
neighborhoods



241

high-quality
preschools



68%

of preschoolers
can be served



Increasing access to high-quality preschool has been the cornerstone of PRE4CLE's mission for the past decade.

Increasing access comes in many forms, including expanding preschool options in every Cleveland neighborhood; extending hours to meet families' schedules; ensuring the availability of preschool among home-based, center-based, and school-based preschool programs; and advocating for increased public funding to support increased quality and affordability. Additionally, PRE4CLE's partners and staff work to ensure families understand the options available to them throughout the community through outreach, a multimedia marketing campaign, and other engagement opportunities.

Through community partnership and support, PRE4CLE's partners have increased access throughout the City of Cleveland. With 241 high-quality preschool options spread throughout the City's 32 neighborhoods, there are now enough preschool seats to serve 68% of Cleveland's preschoolers. Through partnerships between Starting Point and the City of Cleveland that fund scholarships, vouchers from the State of Ohio, and Cuyahoga County's Office of Early Childhood/Invest in Children, families now have access to funding streams that make preschool more affordable.

Even with additional financial support, families struggle to find room in their already tight budgets for preschool. PRE4CLE and its partners continue to work with state and local policymakers to explore additional funding opportunities for families.

A FOCUS ON THE PRESCHOOL WORKFORCE

Like many other sectors post-COVID lockdown, the child care system is suffering from a workforce shortage. This shortage has long been looming over the industry but is at a critical breaking point due to low pay, lack of benefits, and stressful working environments.

This workforce shortage has created a domino effect that is close to toppling the entire system. Because there are not enough teachers available, classrooms remain closed. When classrooms are closed, wait lists grow months and years long, delaying parents and caregivers from entering the workforce. This delay raises the unemployment rate, putting a strain on local and state economies.

The early childhood workforce challenge is complex, but PRE4CLE has been working with partners and Steering Committee member organizations to seek solutions. In 2024, we began a national scan of innovative practices to improve the early childhood career pipeline, support the existing workforce, and create opportunities for career growth. Using these findings to address the system's challenges will be a growing focus across our areas of work in the coming years.

By the Numbers: Child care in Cleveland

\$13/hr

Average wage of preschool teacher (center-based)

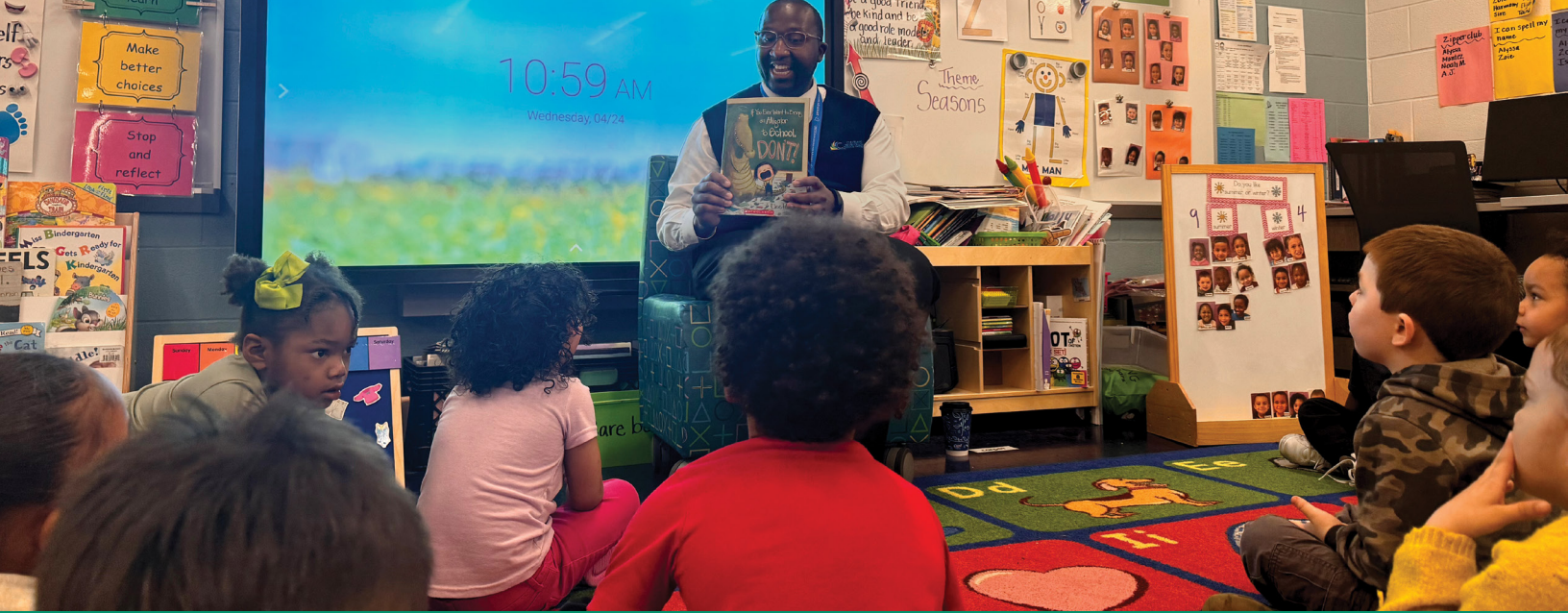
\$27,040

Annually

PRE4CLE convenes several committees that meet regularly throughout the year, including the Cleveland Preschool Coordinating Committee. Part of the work of the Coordinating Committee includes creating special work groups to better understand and tackle challenges impacting our community's preschool providers.

This year, the committee has decided to focus on workforce and compensation, social-emotional learning, and special education. Through surveys and a national scan of best practices, the committee hopes to identify solutions that we can implement locally to strengthen our preschool system and better support kids and families.





Waverly: Where All Are Welcome

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Building an Inclusive Classroom: a Collaborative Approach to Preschool.

Eighth-year Cleveland Metropolitan School District Preschool teacher Rain Kendall is no stranger to collective impact. In her classroom at Waverly School in Cleveland's Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, she co-teaches with two other professionals, Dorothy Clark and Leslie Wasserman. When they work together, their three styles ensure that their students get the best of all three teachers' knowledge.

Ms. Kendall's room is a bit different from other preschool classrooms you might encounter, though you wouldn't know it at first glance. As an integrated, or "co-taught" classroom, her students include both general and special education students.

"You never know what students are going to walk through the doors with, whether that's an identified disability, an unidentified disability, trauma, homelessness – I feel like you just never know the group of kids you're going to get and that makes

each classroom different each year. But that's what makes it special, because sure, you could get a group of kids, but having a group of kids who have different needs and identify as different things makes for the classroom to be really special."

In Ms. Kendall's class, services like occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy are offered to those who need them, and even those who don't.

"They work with the kids right in their environment. Our speech teacher will come in and do whole group stories with the kids, so it's like she's just another teacher in the room. It takes away the stigma that it's a special thing for just a couple of kids. Our students never know the difference between someone who needs the services and who doesn't. Every kid gets their needs met."

This empathetic approach to providing services shows in the students who pass through Ms. Kendall's class year after year. Former students return to read to the class, former parents bring their preschoolers back to Ms. Kendall, and current students display empathy day after day, understanding that no matter what, their peers are people too.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Preschool Program

In the 2023-2024 school year, The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) offered preschool in 61 sites across the school district serving 2,000 students. All 61 sites reached the highest level of quality within Step Up To Quality. As part of its preschool program, CMSD administers special education preschool, which provides a continuum of program options, including instructional activities, specialized instruction and early childhood intervention services.

61

Highest Level of
Quality Sites

2,000

Students Across
the District

Cuyahoga County's UPK Program

Helps support preschool

**tuition
assistance
for families**

with incomes up to 400% of
the federal poverty level

34

Preschool
Programs
in Cleveland

1,715

Seats for
Cleveland
Children

Cuyahoga County's Office of Early Childhood-Invest in Children plays a pivotal role in the success of the PRE4CLE initiative by funding and administering the award-winning Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program. Through funding from the Health and Human Services levy, the office helps support preschool tuition assistance for families with incomes up to 400% of the federal poverty level as well as quality support to preschool programs.

In Cleveland alone, 34 preschool programs are part of the initiative, offering a total of 1,715 seats for children, helping to provide critical early childhood education to families in need.

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Starting Point

In 2024, Starting Point Technical Assistant (TA) Specialists spent thousands of hours building the capacity and quality of Cleveland early learning programs, with a special focus on the new quality standards defined by the Department of Children and Youth's Step Up to Quality Rating Systems. Additionally, in 2024, Starting Point served more than 300 children through the Billie Osborne Fears Child Care Scholarship Program funded by the City of Cleveland. Finally, Starting Point's Family Resource Navigators conducted 280 searches for families in Cleveland, resulting in 1,100 referrals to high-quality preschool programs.

300

Children Received
Scholarships

1,100

Referrals to High-
Quality Programs



Enrollment in high-quality preschool

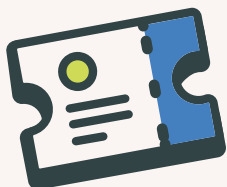
As part of our year-round enrollment campaign, we work with our partners at Starting Point to refer families to high-quality preschool programs, provide outreach at community events to introduce PRE4CLE to families, and hold two PRE4CLE outreach events each year to allow families to learn about high-quality preschool enrollment.

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Supporting High-Quality Preschool Enrollment

For the past ten years, we have worked with our partners across the City of Cleveland to ensure that high-quality preschool is available in every neighborhood. PRE4CLE employs numerous outreach and engagement strategies to boost enrollment in PRE4CLE preschools, both in the community and in partnership with the preschools.



PRE4CLE events

PRE4CLE hosts two events throughout the year to connect parents with high-quality preschool providers. Preschool Palooza and Get PREhistoric with PRE4CLE provide free museum admission at the Children’s Museum of Cleveland and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, respectively, to families with children looking for high-quality preschool.



Partnerships with Community Organizations

Through partnerships with organizations serving Cleveland’s families, PRE4CLE can connect and distribute materials that promote high-quality preschool.



Community Event Tables

Each month PRE4CLE visits community events to meet hundreds of Cleveland families where they are.



A Year-Round, Multi-Media Marketing Campaign

This targeted campaign brings awareness to every Cleveland neighborhood, spreading the word about high-quality preschool programs.



Improving & Maintaining Quality

In 2024, the way the State of Ohio defines quality got an update. Step Up To Quality, the state's quality rating system, changed its designations from stars (with five being the highest) to bronze, silver, and gold. This effort was spearheaded by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth with input from providers, families, and early childhood education leaders including PRE4CLE Executive Director Katie Kelly. With guidance from the sector and leaders, the Step Up To Quality goals and standards were updated to match what is happening in the field.

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Early Learning Spaces

Cleveland Early Learning Spaces is a program within PRE4CLE focused on improving the physical spaces in which children learn. Through grants, professional development sessions, and construction support, PRE4CLE Preschools are able to make repairs and renovations to their facilities so that the quality of their physical spaces match the quality of the education they provide.

PROJECT IMPACT

Through the end of Cohort 2, Cleveland Early Learning Spaces has spent \$1 million on renovation projects at eleven sites, including two home-based child care programs, across nine Cleveland neighborhoods.

\$1M

on renovation projects

11

renovated sites



9 Cleveland neighborhoods



Before

After

Transforming a Community Space

As a member of Cleveland Early Learning Spaces’ first Cohort, Lexington-Bell Community Center Executive Director LuAnne Peters knew she’d be in for an experience that would change her space for the next generation of kids that call Lexington-Bell their home away from home.

Located in the heart of the Hough neighborhood, Lexington-Bell has been a space where generations of Clevelanders could go for early learning, after-school programs, and other community programs, creating a pivotal relationship with the surrounding families that has lasted more than 60 years.

As a five-star Step Up To Quality award winner, Lexington-Bell is no stranger to quality education. “We offer services for children from 18 months to drumming, yoga, rhythm, and more. We like a very well-rounded child,” LuAnne said.

When it came to updating her space, LuAnne knew it was the right opportunity and the right time.

“We insist on having quality early childhood services and early learning experiences because we are in a community of color. We must make sure that our playing field is leveled,” LuAnne expressed. “When we got our space redone by PRE4CLE, that made us look different, made our children more comfortable in our space, and we’re more comfortable in it too.”

The impact is felt beyond children and staff— as a community center that services an entire neighborhood, renovations are a sign of investment to all who enjoy the space.

“When parents come in and see your space, it’s clean, it’s bright, it’s colorful — they feel welcome in your space. Children feel welcome in your space. Children will learn in better spaces that are bright, airy, nurturing... it makes the entire environment much better.”

Lexington-Bell worked with PRE4CLE and IFF to renovate two classrooms, an entryway, and one bathroom, creating a more welcoming space for families and the community at large to enjoy. After the work finished, LuAnne worked with her board to get additional funding for cosmetic renovations in other classrooms to match what had been done in the Early Learning Spaces classrooms.

“It was a long experience, but it was worth it.”

A Night of *Silver & Gold*

After ten years of hard work and dedication to Cleveland's youngest learners, PRE4CLE teachers, administrators, and champions celebrated with a well-deserved night off.

More than 150 preschool teachers, administrators, staff, champions, and guests joined together at The Elliot on November 7th to celebrate PRE4CLE's first ten years and ring in the next ten years of success. The Silver and Gold Gala, aptly named after the new Step Up To Quality rating system levels, celebrated teachers new to preschool and those who are pillars in the community.

With help from PRE4CLE administrators, the Communication Manager and Outreach and Engagement Manager created the Silver and Gold Gala Awards, recognizing eleven providers, administrators, and teachers for their commitment to preschool. These eleven providers received a commemorative award from PRE4CLE and a proclamation from State Senator Nicki Antonio.

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Among the winners was Greg Jones, the owner, administrator, and one of the teachers behind Daycare for Future Scholars, a preschool in the Central neighborhood. Greg was the recipient of the Inspiring Leader of Ohio award, recognizing a strong administrator and advocate for his students, staff, and teachers.

“My sister and I thoroughly enjoyed the event. Everything was extremely elegantly done. Thank you for all of your efforts in organizing this really awesome affair,” Greg said after the event. “This night was much needed.”

Cleveland’s Champion Early Childhood Education ward winner Khayla Veal, from Tiny Footprints Child Enrichment Center, reflected on her time as a preschool teacher.

“Working with children has changed me for the better. A great thing about working with preschoolers is that you get to help parents see the beauty of their children. Every day I get to be more creative and bring something new to their lives and show them how to be a better human being. Working with preschoolers has taught me how to be patient and how to communicate.”

The Gala was generously supported by donors, partners, and friends. We want to thank everyone who came out and celebrated PRE4CLE’s goals, successes, and future, and we are looking forward to the next ten years!





When our smallest students shine, Cleveland thrives.

SPONSORED BY
PNC 10 Grow Up Great PRE4CLE

STAR STEP
Enrichment Center

REDUCE
Glass

PARENT INFO

Welcome New PRE4CLE Preschools!

In 2024, PRE4CLE welcomed 22 new high-quality providers to its network of preschools, the largest new class in several years. Spread throughout the city, the 22 preschools went through a rigorous application process to ensure they meet the high educational standards associated with PRE4CLE Preschools.

Of the 22, nine preschools are in home-based child care programs. This group of preschool providers was vital to keeping the early childhood system on its feet during pandemic shut-downs. They are also primarily women-owned small businesses.

Many operate in the evenings and on weekends, providing more choices to working families. In some Cleveland neighborhoods, only home-based child care programs exist and are the preferred preschool choice for families. It was important to PRE4CLE to make our network more accessible to these programs, to recognize and reward their unique and important work within the preschool system. The number of home-based preschool programs welcomed into the PRE4CLE Preschool network in this application cycle more than doubled the total number of this provider type.

**There are 129
PRE4CLE Preschools
located across
each of Cleveland's
29 residential
neighborhoods**

61 preschools

are in CMSD schools

54 preschools

are in community-based child care centers and preschools

14 preschools

are in home-based child care programs

**This year there are
22 new high-quality
PRE4CLE Preschools**

9 preschools

are in home-based child care programs

13 preschools

are in community-based child care centers and preschools



\$85M

**investment in early
learning facilities
across Ohio**

PRE4CLE made significant strides in its advocacy efforts to secure additional funding and strengthen preschool policies, advancing the overall goals of the initiative.

Key achievements include advocating for an \$85 million investment in early learning facilities across Ohio, collaborating with the Ohio Department of Children and Youth to redesign the Step Up to Quality system, and launching the Early Matters NEO initiative in partnership with multiple organizations to engage corporate and economic leaders in child care solutions. PRE4CLE also developed and released the impactful report, “Driving Growth: The Economic Impact of Child Care in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County,” underscoring the critical role of child care in the local economy.

Report on the Economic Impact of Child Care

PRE4CLE released *Driving Growth: The Economic Value of Child Care in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County in 2024*, authored by Clive R. Belfield, Professor of Economics at Queens College, City University of New York and Principal Economist at the Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

This analysis is the first of its kind for the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, and models the economic impacts of inadequate child care, including lost tax revenue, lower workforce participation, and slower economic growth. **Each year, across Cuyahoga County, inadequate child care for parents of children under the age of five translates to:**

-  **\$411.3 million in lost income for parents**
-  **\$121.4 million in business losses**
-  **\$114.2 million in tax revenue losses**

Of the families surveyed, 78% of parents say child care is not accessible. Notably, 92% of Information Technology and Health Care workers cited challenges in finding care that meets their fluctuating schedules.

Other findings in the report showed that almost 1/3 of Cuyahoga County parents surveyed say inadequate child care has impaired their career options and that as many as 20,000 parents with small children in Cuyahoga County are unemployed.

For more information, visit www.earlymattersneo.org.

Story: New State Investments Support Affordability and Expansion

In 2024, Governor DeWine launched two transformative investments in Ohio's early care and education system, focused on expanding access and improving affordability for families. The first initiative, the **Early Care and Education Access Grants**, allocated \$85 million to child care providers across the state—marking Ohio's first major investment in child care facilities.

These grants were designed to help providers establish new child care centers, renovate and expand existing facilities, and support staffing costs for new classrooms. Notably, \$15.9 million of this funding was directed to Cuyahoga County. The second initiative, the **Child Care Choice Voucher Program**, aimed to extend child care subsidies to families whose income was too high to qualify for existing support—up to 200% of the federal poverty level.

In its first year, this program provided child care funding for at least 250 additional families in Cuyahoga County, helping to make quality child care more affordable for those in need.



This year would not be possible without the help & support of our Steering Committee members, PRE4CLE Staff, Preschool Providers, Gala sponsors, & funders. *Thank you for working tirelessly for Cleveland's preschoolers.*

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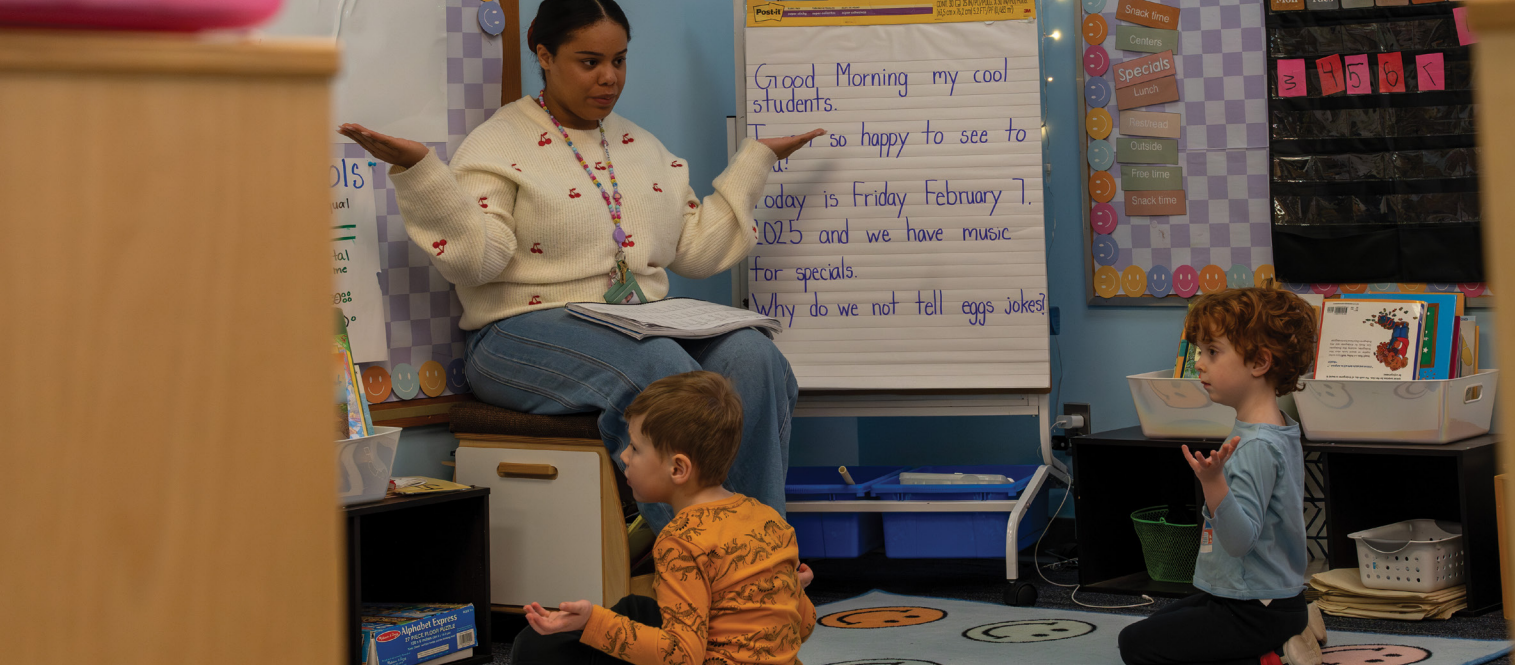
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PRE4CLE Preschools

Bellaire–Puritas

- Artemus Ward Elementary School
- Little Critters Early Learning Center
- Robinson G. Jones Elementary School
- Taylor Act of Learning (Yeladim) Academy

Broadway–Slavic Village

- Albert Bushnell Hart School
- Clever Bee Academy–Broadway
- Liza Loving Hands Child Care
- Mound STEM School
- Terita Johnson
- Villa Early Learning Center
- Warner Girls' Leadership Academy

Brooklyn Centre

- Corinna Bryant
- Denison School
- Develop & Enhance the Mind Enrichment Center

Buckeye–Shaker Square

- Fundamentals Early Childhood Development Academy
- Goldenrod Montessori
- Heavenly Children Child Care Enrichment Center
- The Meeting Place Preschool
- Sunbeam School

Buckeye–Woodhill

- East End Individual Learning Center
- Harvey Rice School

Central

- Bingham Early Learning Center
- Day Care for Future Scholars
- Dike School of the Arts
- Friendly Inn Early Learning Center
- George Washington Carver STEM School
- King Kennedy Head Start
- Marion Sterling Elementary School
- New Beginnings Infant & Toddler Center 2
- New Beginnings Infant & Toddlers Center 3
- William Patrick Day Head Start
- YWCA Metro Early Learning Center

Clark–Fulton

- Market Square Horizon Education Center
- Mommy Monti Cares
- Walton School

Collinwood–Nottingham

- East Clark School
- Hannah Gibbons–Nottingham School
- Maquelle Jackson
- Nottingham Child Care Academy

Cudell

- Marion C. Seltzer School
- Willard Early Learning Center

Detroit Shoreway

- Gordon Square Early Learning Center
- Halle School of Inquiry
- Jireh Learning Center
- Joseph M. Gallagher School
- St. Augustine Manor Child Enrichment Center
- Tiny Footprints Child Enrichment Center
- Waverly School

Downtown

- Developing Character

Euclid–Green

- Carl B. Stokes Early Learning Center
- Euclid Park Elementary School

Fairfax

- Bolton School
- Quincy Place Early Learning Program

Glenville

- Apples of Gold Child Care II
- Clever Bee Academy–St. Clair
- Ever Changing Educational Center
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Academy
- Mary M. Bethune School
- Murtis Taylor at Kathryn R. Tyler Center
- Stephanie Tubbs Jones School
- Stonebrook-White Montessori
- Wade Early Learning Center

Hough

- Daniel E. Morgan School
- Lexington–Bell Early Childhood Center
- Mary B. Martin School
- Thinking Cap Child Care
- Wade Park School
- Waverly School

Jefferson

- Garfield School
- Wilson's Home Daycare

Kamm's

- Care–A–Lot Daycare & Achievement Center
- Clara E. Westropp School of the Arts
- Douglas MacArthur Girls' Leadership Academy
- Newton D. Baker School of the Arts
- Riverside School
- Triskett Station Horizon Education Center
- West Park Discovery World

Kinsman

- Anton Grdina School
- Rainbow Terrace Head Start

Lee–Harvard

- Adlai E. Stevenson School
- Heavenly Kids At Zion Chapel
- Louis Stokes Early Learning Center
- Whitney M. Young School

Mount Pleasant

- Andrew J. Rickoff School
- Clever Bee Academy–Kinsman
- Murtis Taylor Child Enrichment Program

North Shore Collinwood

- A Jubilee Academy
- Apples of Gold Child Care III
- Intergenerational Day Care
- Memorial School
- Oliver H. Perry School
- Stair Steps Enrichment Center

Ohio City

- The Music Settlement–Ohio City
- Orchard STEM School
- Paul L. Dunbar Arts Enrichment Academy
- Urban Community School

Old Brooklyn

- Benjamin Franklin School
- Charles A. Mooney School
- Lily Diaz Child Care
- Loving Cup Kids Academy of Old Brooklyn
- Old Brooklyn Horizon Education Center
- William Cullen Bryant School
- William Rainey Harper IB World School
- Young Achievers Learning Center 2

Union–Miles

- Chapelside Academy
- Charles Dickens School
- Greater Works Shall We Do Childcare Center
- Miles School
- Miles Park School
- Nathan Hale School
- Robert H. Jamison Leadership Academy
- Tomorrow's Leaders Child Care & Enrichment Center

University

- The Music Settlement–University Circle

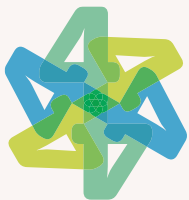
West Boulevard

- Almira PreK–8 Academy
- Mary Church Terrell School
- Mrs. Cruz Family Childcare
- St. Ignatius Head Start
- Wilbur Wright School



PRE4CLE

**A decade
*of progress.***



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