

RESOLUTION No.

Resolution in Support of Ballot Measure Establishing Universal Preschool in Multnomah County

RECITALS

- A. This measure will establish a new preschool for all program providing voluntary, tuition-free, developmentally appropriate early learning opportunities for three- and four-year old children in Multnomah County, prioritizing families who historically have the least access to preschool, including BIPOC families, families whose children have disabilities, families who speak languages other than English, and who are experiencing poverty and economic challenges.
- B. This program will redress a critical shortage of accessible early childhood education in this region. Before COVID-19, Multnomah County only had enough preschool and child care spots for 43% of our preschool-age children. The pandemic's impacts will make this even worse.
- C. Oregon ranks fourth in the country in the costs of childcare. Yet only 15% of preschool slots are publicly funded. In 2017, preschool cost on average over \$9,000/year, forcing many families in Multnomah County to spend 30-40% of their income on preschool.
- D. Research over many decades convincingly shows that participation in high quality early childhood educational experiences has a positive impact on all children, but especially for children of color and children living in poverty, supporting a range of early cognitive skills, social-emotional development, and executive functions that are foundational for success in K-12.
- E. Moreover, public investments in universal, high quality preschool have been shown to be one of the most effective economic development strategies, with a return of almost \$8-10 on the dollar.

RESOLUTION

1. The Board of Education for Portland Public Schools endorses the measure establishing preschool for all 3- and 4-year old children in Multnomah County.