



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution Regarding Pre-K Expansion

November 16, 2016

WHEREAS, Indiana first dedicated state funds to support Pre-K for four year olds in 2013 with the creation of the Early Education Matching Grant Program (EEMG).

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly passed the Early Education Grant Pilot Program in 2015, which established the On My Way Pre-K Pilot Program, a mixed delivery, voucher-based program for eligible four year olds families in five counties (Marion, Lake, Allen, Jackson, and Vanderburgh).

WHEREAS, local funding in Marion County was used to develop the Indy Preschool Scholarship Program to complement the On My Way Pre-K pilot program in the county and expand access to more eligible four-year-olds.

WHEREAS, less than 4% of the 85,000 Hoosier four-year-olds were enrolled in one of the state's three signature Pre-K programs, and there are thousands of families currently on waiting lists for Preschool assistance.

WHEREAS, research has consistently demonstrated the long-term benefits of early childhood education, and early evidence shows that children participating in On My Way Pre-K gained skills from fall to spring at a higher rate than their peers, including several key aspects of school readiness, including: language comprehension, early literacy, executive functioning, and a reduction in behavior problems in the classroom.

WHEREAS, since 2011, Indiana has expanded Pre-K capacity by increasing the number of high quality programs (Level 3 and Level 4 on the Paths to QUALITY framework) in the state by 86%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Indiana State Board of Education expresses strong support for expanding Pre-K under the following guiding principles:

1. Maintain a clear focus on quality,
2. Ensure the state infrastructure supports and encourages a mixed delivery system, and
3. Assistance is targeted towards our most high-needs children.