

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
TASK FORCE IN FORSYTH COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Winston-Salem City Council, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education and the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners believe that high-quality pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) education enables our children to succeed in school, work, and life; and

WHEREAS, ensuring access to high-quality Pre-K for four-year-olds has proven to be one of the soundest educational investments the public can make, providing demonstrated, significant, long-term savings on the costs of special education, grade retention, welfare, and crime; and

WHEREAS, during their K–12 years and beyond, children who attend high-quality Pre-K perform better on standardized achievement tests in reading and math, exhibit more positive behaviors in the classroom, and are more likely to graduate from high school, continue their education and be more productive and responsible as adults; and

WHEREAS, local organizations have formed the Pre-K Priority committee whose mission is to educate, engage, and mobilize the public and secure the commitment of civic leaders to support the establishment of a high-quality system of Pre-K programs available to all four-year-olds in Forsyth County; and

WHEREAS the Pre-K Priority has assessed Forsyth County’s current and future capacity for providing high quality Pre-K and has established evidence-based standards, components, and practices of high-quality Pre-K to be incorporated into local programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem, in coordination with the Forsyth County Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, does hereby agree to form a Community Early Childhood Education Task Force (Task Force) to lead our community in

developing a plan for ensuring that all of Forsyth County's children have access to high-quality Pre-K programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force plan will include:

- a) Methods for coordinating the Pre-K programs provided by private and public providers to ensure that parent choice and equity are maintained through a mixed system of high-quality Pre-K providers;
- b) Recommendations for the effective and efficient management, administration, and evaluation the Pre-K system; and
- c) Recommendations for expanding Pre-K in Forsyth County, including establishing priorities for the order in which families will be served in an incremental expansion of Pre-K programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Task Force members will be identified by a Selection Committee whose membership will be comprised of three members selected by the Pre-K Priority Steering Committee and three representatives, one each from County government, City government, and the Board of Education, in consultation with elected officials, civic leaders, and community groups by March 31, 2021, and membership on the Task Force will represent all important stakeholder groups and will reflect the diversity of our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, in consultation with elected officials, is authorized to select the representative for the City of Winston-Salem to serve on the Selection Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force will report on its progress to the elected bodies quarterly and deliver a plan for expanding high-quality Pre-K by February 28, 2022.