

# Creating Opportunity

## An Action Plan for Early Childhood Education

Access to high-quality early care and education programs gives all children, from birth to age five, the strong start they need in life to realize their full potential, to have economic opportunity, and to make our community prosperous.

### Early childhood education (ECE) helps shape the developing brain



#### Early brain development lays a foundation for life.

During a child's earliest years, the brain wiring is formed for all future learning, behavior, and health.



#### ECE programs all have long waiting lists due to insufficient funding.

Children without access to ECE programs start school behind and too often stay behind.

### High quality child care and public pre-k lead to



#### MORE TAXPAYER SAVINGS

on school remediation costs

- Fewer kids repeating a grade
- Fewer referrals to special education



#### MORE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

with increased lifetime earnings

High school diploma	+\$282,040
Associate's degree	+\$466,560
College degree	+\$1.2 million

5

Consider a revenue source for an ECE expansion, tied to evaluation for accountability and continuous quality improvement.



1  
Clear the child care subsidy waiting list for children under age five.



2

Adopt a six-year phase-in for voluntary, universal public pre-k for all 4-year-old children, with a sliding fee scale for families above 200% of poverty.

The Mecklenburg County  
Early Childhood Education  
Executive Committee

### 5-Point Plan

4

Develop a strong evaluation component tied to ECE investment.



3

Implement ECE workforce talent development and retention strategies to meet ECE workforce needs.



### Public Will is Strong...

93%

agree that children do better in school if they start school ready to learn.

72%

would pay \$10 MORE in taxes per month to increase access to high-quality child care for young children.

71%

would pay \$10 MORE in taxes per month to support voluntary, universal public pre-k for 4-year-old children.

Two-thirds would pay \$20 more in taxes per month to expand access to high-quality child care and voluntary, universal public pre-k.



### A call to action. NOW!

Put the policies and resources in place to promote economic opportunity for all Mecklenburg County children.

### For more information, contact:

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