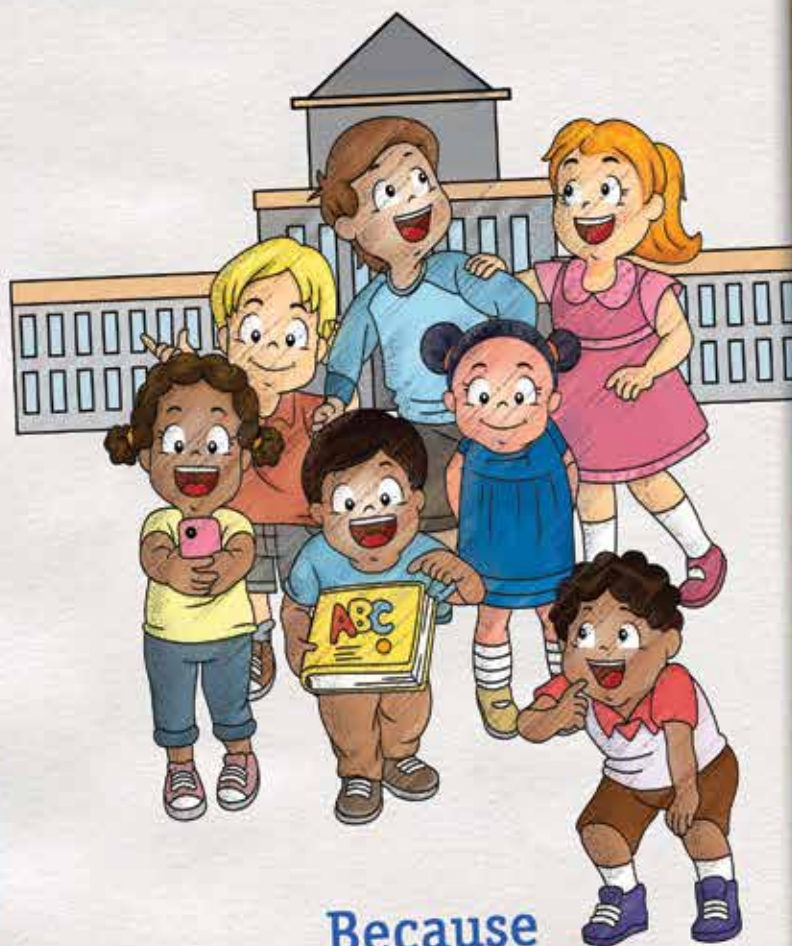


# PRE4CLE:

The Cleveland Pre-Kindergarten Plan



Because  
Cleveland's Children  
Can't Wait





# PRE4CLE

Cleveland's Plan To Deliver High-Quality Pre-K

**PRE4CLE is an early learning compact among many community partners including the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, charter schools, community based providers, philanthropy, business, labor and government.**

As a community committed to children, we understand high-quality early learning and development opportunities are embedded in educational success. In 2012, the Cleveland community set out to fundamentally reinvent public education. The result—*Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools*—was designed under the leadership of Mayor Frank Jackson, enacted by the Ohio General Assembly and embraced by Cleveland voters through passage of a historic levy.

PRE4CLE is a major next step in bringing the *Cleveland Plan* to life and improving education for our most important regional asset, our children.

PRE4CLE is part of a continuum of education improvement and attainment in the City of Cleveland that includes the Cleveland Early Childhood Compact, the Transformation Alliance for K-12 and the Higher Education Compact—all undergirded by The Cleveland Plan.

PRE4CLE is a roadmap that will expand access to **high-quality** preschool for families in the City of Cleveland who are seeking an excellent pre-K experience for their children. The vision is to ensure *every child in Cleveland will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.*

PRE4CLE is the largest public/private expansion of high-quality pre-K in Ohio. It signifies our community's full commitment to improving education and developing strategies and solutions that work for the people who live, work, and raise their children in Cleveland.

## A Great Need

In Cleveland, there is a limited supply of high-quality pre-K programs to help young children be ready for school. The quality options that do exist are unevenly distributed across the city, resulting in few high-quality options in some neighborhoods and high-quality seats going unfilled in others.

Kindergarteners today are expected to know more than ever when they enter school. Yet, currently fewer than 2 in 10 pre-K aged children are enrolled in high-quality programs. PRE4CLE is the roadmap to help families enroll their children in high-quality, nurturing programs to ensure they will enter school kindergarten ready.

**The need for this program is great—and there's no time to lose. We have to start now.**

## Preschool Population & Enrollment 2013

16,353
3 to 5-year-olds in Cleveland
11,447
Projected enrollment (70%)
10,013
Total enrollment available
3,530
High-quality enrollment available
2,857
High-quality enrollment

## PRE4CLE will focus on:

filling existing yet vacant high-quality pre-K openings, increasing the existence of available high-quality seats, ensuring families have access to those openings, and helping children enroll and thrive in quality pre-K programs.

## Quality Matters

**Our children deserve the best.**

Important brain research during the last three decades shows that the first 5 years of life are a time of enormous social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth. Young children's brains are like sponges: ready and eager to absorb all that is around them.

That's why PRE4CLE is focused exclusively on increasing access to and enrollment in **high-quality** pre-K opportunities.

Research has found that high-quality pre-K programs can boost reading and math scores and teach children important classroom skills like how to take turns and pay attention. A 2013 study by Stanford University found that low-income students who do not attend preschool have already lost 1,400 hours of valuable learning time.

Research proves children's academic successes at ages 9 and 10 are based in part on the amount of words they hear, as well as regular interactions with their families and caregivers from birth through age 3. Yet, we also know that children from higher income families hear, on average, *30 million more words* by age 3 than children from low-income households.

**PRE4CLE can help close that gap.**

## PRE4CLE

plans to have at least 2,000 additional 4-year-old children enrolled in high-quality pre-K settings in 2016.

The goal of the Cleveland Plan is that every child attends a high-quality school and every neighborhood has a multitude of great schools from which families can choose. A key strategy of the *Cleveland Plan* calls for "expanding preschool to all 4-year-olds across the city...with a goal of expanding to 3-year-olds as well."



# Quality Benchmarks: How Will We Know If PRE4CLE Is Successful?

Quality is the cornerstone of PRE4CLE.

Measuring the success of PRE4CLE is critical to achieving the best outcomes for children, supporting continuous program improvement, and being accountable for public investments.

PRE4CLE establishes and will strive to reach benchmarks related to both the performance of individual children and the growth of high-quality pre-K programs serving them.

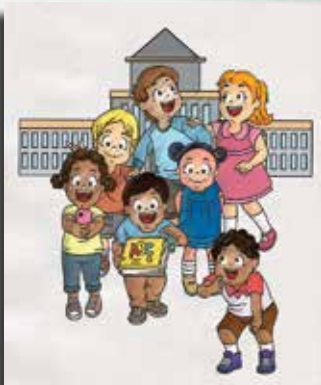
## Child-level Benchmarks:



1. Ensure that two-thirds of children in PRE4CLE arrive at kindergarten scoring above the County mean on the standard kindergarten readiness measure by 2018.



2. At least half of children enrolled in PRE4CLE will show significant developmental gains in the year before kindergarten by 2016.

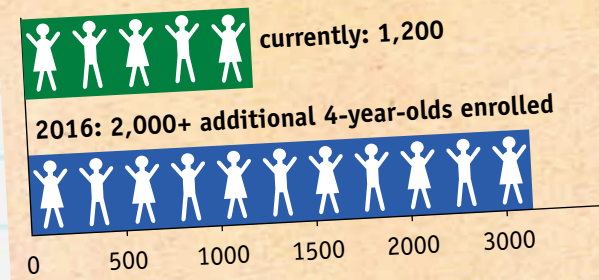


## Community-level Benchmarks:

1. At least 2,000 *additional* 4-year-old children are enrolled in high-quality pre-K sites in 2016 (from current level of 1,200).

This will be done by filling at least 250 currently available but vacant high-quality enrollment, adding 1,000 newly created high-quality enrollment and helping more programs join the state's Step Up to Quality program which identifies high-quality programs in each community.

2. Target newly rated and newly created high-quality enrollment to children living in 2 underserved Cleveland neighborhoods, as well as throughout the City by 2016.



2,000	Additional 4-year-old children enrolled in high-quality pre-K
At least 250	Filling currently available but vacant high-quality enrollment
1,000	Adding newly created high-quality enrollment

# How PRE4CLE Will Work

## Who is eligible for PRE4CLE?

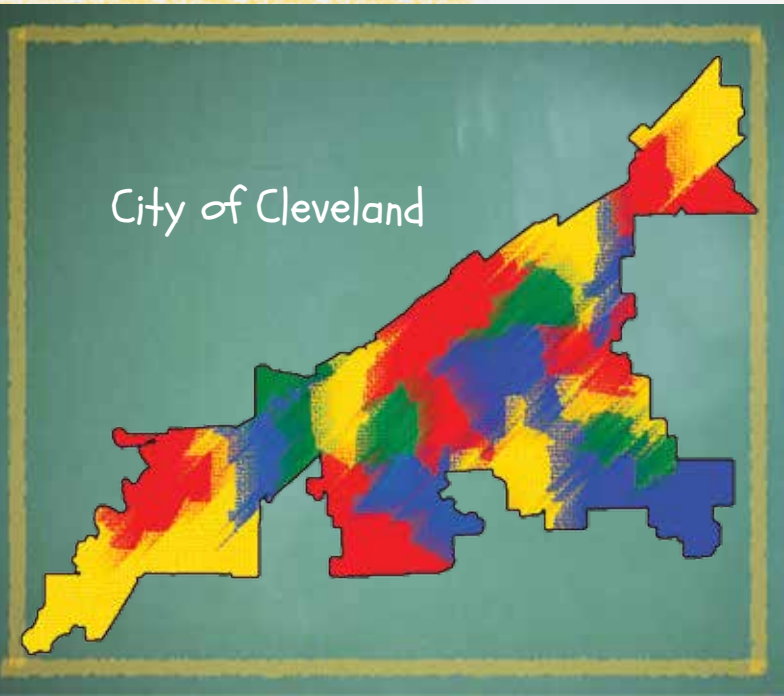
- All 4-year-olds in the city of Cleveland will be eligible to participate as the resources to start and grow the program become available. Over time, the program will expand to include 3-year-olds.
- Family participation is voluntary.
- Provider participation is voluntary.

## When does PRE4CLE begin?

- The first phase of PRE4CLE will begin in the 2014–2015 school year by simultaneously increasing the number of available high-quality seats and filling vacant high-quality ones.

## How will PRE4CLE help families?

PRE4CLE supports the differing needs of families by offering options such as full day and half day programs, and year round and school year (August–June) programs. PRE4CLE supports healthy early childhood development before a child enters pre-K, as well as successful transitions to kindergarten.



- High-quality pre-K will be expanded starting in 2014.
- As funding becomes available, tuition support for eligible families choosing community-based pre-K will be a top priority and transportation assistance will be available for eligible families. Both research and input from the Cleveland community told us cost and transportation are barriers to families choosing and accessing high-quality pre-K.
- Families will receive help finding the right pre-K option for their child, enrolling and locating available community support.





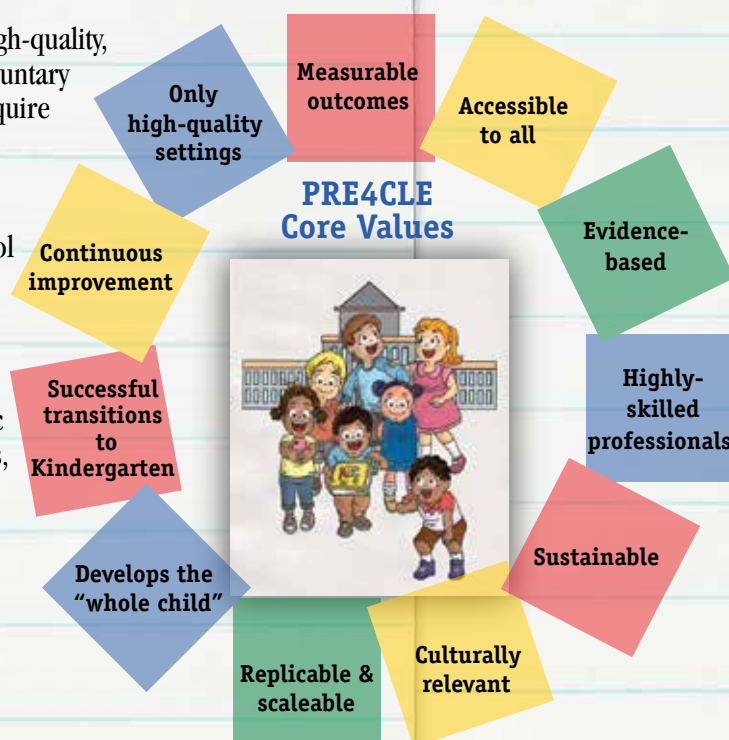
## How Will PRE4CLE Help Providers?

High-quality pre-K depends on high-quality providers. Participating in PRE4CLE is not mandatory for any pre-K provider in Cleveland. Those that **do** participate will be offered:

- Financial support for expansion;
- Potential tuition assistance for eligible families;
- Access to professional development for staff;
- Marketing and outreach for their programs;
- Connections to other supports and partnerships; and
- Supports for helping ensure each child's successful transition to kindergarten.

Providers who wish to participate in PRE4CLE must submit an application and be accepted as a high-quality provider.

Delivering high-quality, universal, voluntary pre-K will require a long-term commitment of CMSD, its charter school partners, community-based providers, philanthropic organizations, businesses, labor and government.



## PRE4CLE will:

- Establish the Step Up to Quality 3-star rating as a threshold quality standard for eligible programs;
- Ensure all approved curricula are comprehensive and evidence-based;
- Make State of Ohio curriculum guidance tools available to all programs; and
- Promote rigorous staff qualifications that correspond with Step Up to Quality 3-star rating level and increase over time.

## How will PRE4CLE be funded?

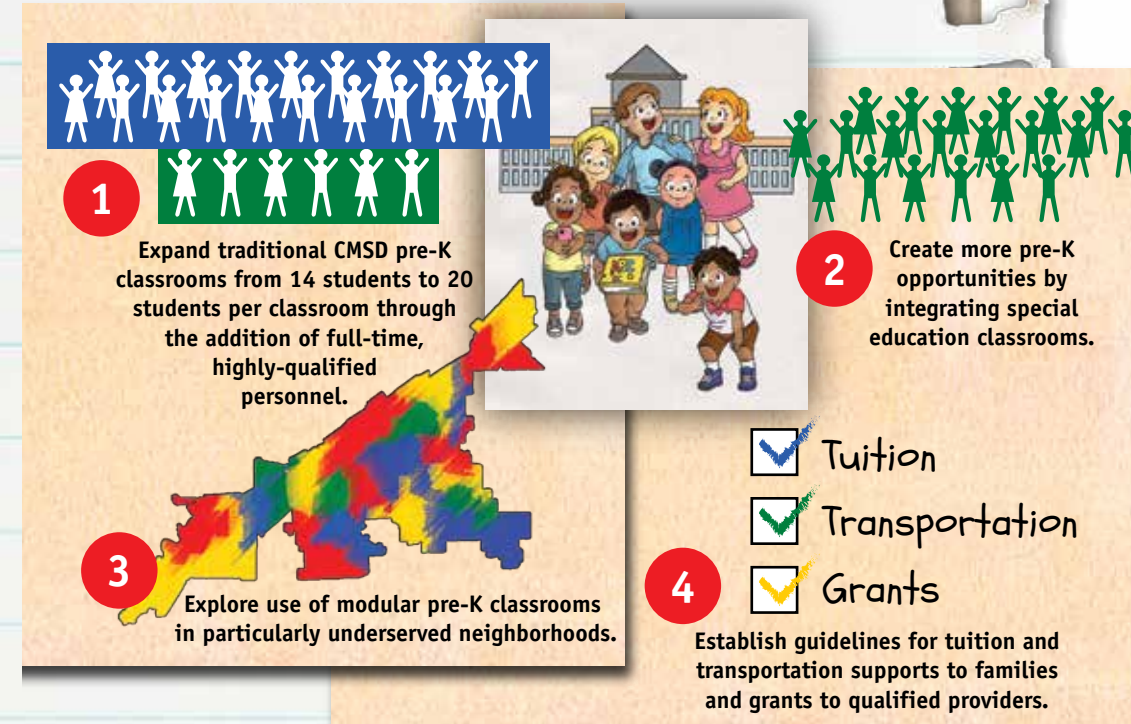
Full implementation of the plan is expected to cost \$15 million in the first year and approximately \$20 million the second year. **The good news is that we have funds to get started right away—even before all \$15 million is available.**

- PRE4CLE will make better use of existing federal, state and local pre-K funds by having this clear, coordinated plan.
- The Cleveland Metropolitan School District has committed \$2.5 million to launch key parts of PRE4CLE in the 2014–15 school year.

- Cuyahoga County has committed an additional \$1 million over two years to support PRE4CLE.
- Support will be sought from our community's corporate and philanthropic institutions.
- Our state and federal leaders in Columbus and Washington will be asked to provide increased public investment in Cleveland's children through PRE4CLE.

## A Roadmap To Guide Us

Going forward, PRE4CLE will start with a set of key strategies:



**The result:** PRE4CLE aims to have at least 2,000 additional 4-year-old children enrolled in high-quality pre-K settings in 2016.

## Making The PRE4CLE Vision A Reality

In 2014, it's important to lay the groundwork for a successful pre-K program that will benefit Cleveland's children, neighborhoods and economy for years to come.

But, we can't do this without the enthusiastic support of the philanthropic communities, corporate partners and federal, state and local governments. We look forward to partnerships that will make PRE4CLE a reality for Cleveland's preschoolers.

## To make PRE4CLE a reality, we are:

- Forming the Cleveland Early Childhood Compact to guide and monitor PRE4CLE implementation;
- Selecting a qualified organization to manage the PRE4CLE implementation process, including a provider application/invitation process;
- Creating a communications plan to build and enhance engagement citywide;
- Building a robust data system to provide critical information for achieving our standards and evaluating our success; and
- Working to secure additional funding for the first full school year and beyond.

**PRE4CLE is a citywide program designed to ensure that every child in the City of Cleveland will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.**





Learn more about

**PRE4CLE**

**Download the full report and receive updated information on PRE4CLE at**

**[www.clevelandmetroschools.org/pre4cle](http://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/pre4cle)**

**Starting Point** can help families find the right early education option for their children. Call 216-575-0061, or visit

**[www.starting-point.org/parents.html](http://www.starting-point.org/parents.html)**

**CMSD Office of Early Childhood Education** can offer more information about PRE4CLE to providers and families.

Call 216-838-0231.