

June 15, 2018

Dear CPS Parents and Families,

Chicago Public Schools, with the support of Mayor Emanuel, has recently invested \$20 million to provide greater access to high-quality early childhood education for working families across Chicago. This investment is a key priority for the Office of Early Childhood Education, and we are pleased to inform you that free and full-day Pre-K will be offered in your community as part of this expansion.

Our vision for CPS starts with laying a stronger foundation for our city's youngest learners. The research is clear: students who attend full-day Pre-K programs perform better academically, and they are twice as likely to be reading at grade level by Kindergarten than those without that opportunity. Quality Pre-K programs also build social skills and give children a foundation in problem-solving, relationship building, and communication — all of which are essential for success in school and in life.

The free and full-day Pre-K model implements high-quality programming, including a low student-teacher ratio and a maximum class size of 20 children. Free and full-day Pre-K hours of operation will align with your elementary school's start and end time to ensure continuity with the early elementary grades. There will be no charge for this program.

Students in free and full-day Pre-K will benefit from the following experiences:

- Whole group and small group play-based instruction;
- Individualized learning targeted to your child's unique needs;
- Social and emotional development, including opportunities to build peer-to-peer relationships;
- Outdoor time to promote physical development and health; and
- A minimum of 2 meals per day.

The expansion of free and full-day preschool access in your community will ensure your children are ready to start kindergarten prepared for success. Please contact your school for more information about this new opportunity.

Sincerely,



LaTanya D. McDade
Chief Education Officer
Chicago Public Schools