

House Bill 516

Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to Prekindergarten for 4-Year-Olds

Meeting Notes: June 8, 2017

Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Purpose: House Bill 516 “Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to Prekindergarten for 4-Year-Olds,” was passed by both chambers and enacted under Article II, Section 17(b) of the Maryland Constitution – Chapter 25. The workgroup will “study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to a certain Commission) on Innovation and Excellence in Education) on or before September 1, 2017.”

Meeting Outcomes:

Clarification of charge

Small groups develop elements for the recommendations report to the Commission

Meeting Notes:

Members in attendance: Elizabeth Kelley (Chair), Honorable Eric Ebersole, Michele Dean, Elise Burgess, Karen Karten, Stacey Henson, Shari Sierra, Kelly Hall, Becky Yackley, Simeon Russell, Christina Peusch, Jackie Grant, Clinton McSherry, Rachel London, Esq., Ginny Simoneau, Flora Gee, Sharon Vance, Toby Harkleroad

Members not in attendance: Honorable William Ferguson, Tracy Jost, Steven Hicks, Crystal Barksdale, Maryland PTA representative, Parent’s Place representative

Welcome and Introductions by Workgroup Chair

Elizabeth Kelley, Acting Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Early Childhood Development, welcomed the workgroup and explained the ground rules for members and observers. The Workgroup members and observers introduced themselves. Ms. Kelley provided a brief review of the purpose of the workgroup.

Review Notes

Meeting notes were accepted with no changes.

Clarification of Charge to Workgroup - Legislators

Delegate Ebersole stated that the workgroup can offer the Kirwan Commission information that they do not have, such as are Maryland schools capturing all PreK students at 185% of poverty? How are these students recruited? He continued that HB 516 asks the workgroup to consider universal PreK and what are all the elements that need to be considered in planning for expanded PreK? Ms. Kelley added that the

recommendations must address how PreK can be phased in since actual available high quality slots need to be developed in certain locations and the availability of qualified staff must be ensured.

Review data requested at May 12 meeting - Simon Workman

Mr. Workman presented additional data on two new charts. The first chart listed by jurisdiction the capacity to serve all 4 year olds at or below 185% of poverty, and the number of 4 year old children in school year 2015-2016 that were in Informal Care and at or below 185% of poverty. The total state number of these students was 6,702. The second chart estimated that in that same school year, there were 35,287 4 year olds eligible for FARMS, with 22,258 available PreK slots in public schools. The number of children in Informal Care is based on parent report of students when registering for public Kindergarten. One member contributed that this data does not include children in private schools (parochial and otherwise) that are receiving FARMS and in full day PreK; this data is collected on a voluntary basis by MSDE but does not capture all of the children as many non public schools do not submit data. However, these students' parents likely would indicate that their children were in private PreK in the previous school year and NOT Informal Care. Mr. Workman shared that the final report should look at building towards universal PreK. Therefore, data predictions should look at serving all children at 185% poverty, 200% poverty, and 300% poverty, then serving 80% of all 4 year olds. West Virginia took 10 years to get to universal PreK. It is important to not get "hung up" on the data as it changes yearly but the plan over the long term will consider these adjustments.

It was clarified that 6.5 hours is a full day for PreK and this can include nap time. One member noted that in other states as full day PreK slots increase more 3 year olds are served in Head Start which is a "good thing."

Work in small groups to develop elements for the recommendations report – governance, funding flow, number of years to roll out universal PreK, capacity building – Ms. Walker

Ms. Walker provided instructions for the 4 small groups – each group is to fill in important elements for Governance (create a local plan, program decision making, monitor implementation of PreK), Funding Flow (funding model, accountability), and Capacity Building (professional development, program quality) for the state wide expansion of PreK. The full group will come back together at 10:30 am to share their recommendations.

Debrief – Ms. Kelley

Small Group Report Out: Please see handout entitled, "Forming Recommendations for Implementation Of PreK Expansion In Maryland" for notes from workgroup discussions.

Adjournment

Ms. Kelley thanked participants for attending and announced that the workgroup will meet again this month on June 29, 2017, at new time-12:00 pm to 3:00 pm, MSDE, 8th floor, room 6.