

Senate Bill 516

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

Statement of Work

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.”

Charge

The Workgroup is charged with making “recommendations regarding an implementation plan based on Augenblick, Palaich and Associates January 2016 report submitted in accordance with Chapter 2 of the acts of the general Assembly of 2014 to make quality, full-day prekindergarten universally available to children who are 4 years old, including:

1. a mixed delivery system of public and private providers meeting the high quality requirement;
2. a sliding income scale for family contribution;
3. capacity of existing high quality providers and credentialed staff;
4. a plan to increase capacity of high quality providers and staff;
5. the impact on school space;
6. the impact by jurisdiction;
7. the potential for school systems to partner with private providers or Head Start centers to increase capacity; and
8. any options to merge various funding streams for prekindergarten to provide a seamless and diverse experience for families.”

Report Submission

The recommendations shall be submitted to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education on or before September 1, 2017.

Meeting Dates

- Meeting 1: Friday, May 12, 2015, 1:00 pm to 3:00 p.m.
 - ❖ Meeting Outcomes: Review workgroup purpose; review and discuss the report A Comprehensive Analysis of Prekindergarten in Maryland – January 2016 by Augenblick, Palaich and Associates.
- Meeting schedule: Dates to be determined.

Membership

1. Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Elizabeth Kelley, Chair, Acting Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Early Childhood Development,
2. House of Delegates Member, the Honorable Eric Ebersole, District 12
3. Senate Member, the Honorable William Ferguson, District 46
4. Prekindergarten Teacher, Michele Dean, Paige ES, Montgomery County Public Schools
5. Principal, Elise Burgess, Sally Ride ES, Montgomery County Public Schools
6. Early Learning Supervisor, Karen Karten, Somerset County Public Schools
7. Washington County Public Schools, Stacy Henson, Ed. D., Coordinator for Early Learning
8. Prekindergarten Teacher, Shari Sierra, Piney Point Elementary School, St Mary's County Public Schools
9. Executive Director of Supplemental School Programs, Kelly Hall, St Mary's County Public Schools
10. White Marsh Child Care 1, Becky Yackley, Director
11. Maryland Head Start Association, Simeon Russell, Executive Officer
12. Maryland State Child Care Association, Ms. Christina Peusch, Executive Director
13. Maryland State Family Child Care Association, Jacqueline Grant, President
14. SEIU Local 500 Child Care Division, Crystal Barksdale, Owner of Ms. Crystal's Little Rugrat's
15. Maryland Family Network, Clinton McSherry, Director of Public Policy
16. Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, Rachel London, Esq., Deputy Director
17. Maryland PTA

18. Parents Place
19. Ready At Five, Steven R. Hicks, Executive Director
20. Kid's Campus Early Learning Center, Tracy Jost, Owner
21. Children's Center of Walkersville, Ginny Simoneau, Owner
22. Greenbelt Children's Center, Flora Gee, Director
23. The Maryland After School Association, Sharon Vance, President
24. Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, Toby Harkleroad, St. Francis International School, Silver Spring

Staff:

- Ms. Nancy Vorobey, Section Chief, Early Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, MSDE
- Ms. Judith Walker, Branch Chief, Early Learning Branch, Division of Early Childhood Development, MSDE
- Ms. Nykia Washington, Preschool Development Grant, Project Manager, Early Learning Branch, Division of Early Childhood Development, MSDE

Workgroup meeting location:

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

8th Floor, conference room will be announced before each meeting (Public parking is available next door)