



## **Durham Early Care and Education Study - Parent Questionnaire**

### ***Comprehensive Responses to Open-Ended Comment Questions***

#### **Q22: What other specific features or services would be most important to you in a community-funded Durham preschool program?**

- Field Trips. 2) Hands On Training. 3) Teacher/Child Ratio; more eyes are needed for children in this age group for things such as field trips.
- Include breakfast, lunch, snack in fees 2. Encourage families to read at home and offer books to borrow so that kids have books at home - similar to Book Harvest
- 5 star accreditation
- A bus route, a islamic preschool run by muslims or no holidays celebrated in the schol system
- A co-op type program would be great for getting families involved and invested. Play based and child led learning is important to us as well.
- A curriculum in which properly prepares child for kindergarten.
- A curriculum that focuses on self-direction and fosters a joy for learning. Less focus on memorizing information. Time for imaginative play and lots of socialization.
- A full day program as most parents cannot transfer from school to daycare in the middle of the day.
- A good mix of gender, race, ability. High expectations and quality curriculum. Lots of time outdoors. Teaching social skills. Reggio approach would be great!!
- A model based on current research and best practices, influenced by child-centered philosophies like Montessori, Reggio-Emilia, etc.
- A play based structure, including outdoor time, is important to our family. We would be interested in a cooperative school model, which would reduce costs as well. Having healthy snacks (such as fresh fruits and vegetables) provided would be desirable.
- A preschool that is equipped to handle mobility challenges/special equipment needs.
- A spot in preschool shouldn't be determined by how much knowledge kid has. Every child should be able to go to preschool free or income based.
- ability to switch between part time and full time when needed
- accept children with disabilities
- Access for all
- Access for all children
- access for children with disabilities to attend as well
- Access to arts, creative learning.
- Access to outdoors for a large portion of the day. Developmentally appropriate practices. Play-based. Inclusion with children with disabilities. Culturally diverse.
- Access to special needs services
- Accessibility and diversity
- Accommodations for working parents is imperative. Play based approaches would be desirable.
- Actually teaching the kids enrolled. Treat the children like their children only 1-4 give wiggle room and play time. Also have cameras available where parents can view from their smart phone. Have a big enough property where the children can be split by ages. If this is funded make it available to ALL races! I feel everyone shouldn't have the same price; due to the fact of income. Everyone isn't as fortunate to work where they have a great paying job. They work the same as the next person except their pay is just lower. That shouldn't mean they shouldn't get childcare and pay the same when they don't make the same. I don't find that liable.
- Adequate pay for teachers and funding for the school to ensure high quality care and instruction for the students. I love the montessori model used at Watts and Morehead where the pre-k is integrated in the elementary school.
- Adherence to NAEYC accreditation standards
- Advancement for smart children
- Affordable and educational safe learning environment that is not stressed on the child
- Affordable lunch would be nice
- after school
- After school
- After school

- After school activities
- After school care
- After school program
- After school programs
- Age appropriate curriculum
- Aligning DPS kindergarten readiness goals with goals for pre-K kids.
- Allowing children who aged out of early headstart but not quite 4 yet, to still have a guaranteed spot.
- Allowing the family the option of the preschool of their choice
- Alta calidad
- Alta seguridad
- Alta seguridad
- Alta seguridad
- Alta seguridad para los niños
- Alta seguridad, investigar a los empleados
- Alternative forms of education—Montessori, Reggio—that encourage movement, creative problem solving, responsibility for self and care of others and the environment and space. Emphasis on art and exploration of materials. Outside time. Unstructured free play with open ended materials. Teachers who think of themselves as companions and guides who support children. Children should leave with a love of learning, asking questions, and investigating answers.
- An environment that promotes positive African American culture, and Pan-African culture, technology, science, reading, and writing is essential to encourage the education and growth of black children.
- An exceptional academic curriculum, to prepare them for Kindergarten and upper grades.
- Antes y después de la escuela
- anything to help the children
- Anything would help, really. I have to work, but childcare currently eats up the majority of my salary.
- Assurance that teachers are licensed and high-quality. Pairing siblings with each other. Plenty of outdoor time.
- Attention to gifted children.
- Availability for all that want to attend, no waitlists (dps should also follow this for year-round instead of turning the majority of kids away to have to attend subpar or charter schools).
- Availability to parents who are in school
- be available for all
- Before and after care
- Before and after school care and transportation as well as properly trained teachers. Teachers that want i stress want to work with kids not just a job.
- Better tasting food options for the kids and more close attention to the kids as well
- Bilingual language teaching
- Bilingual option, backgrounds of all kinds, all in one class
- Bilingual teaching.
- Bilingue
- Bilingue
- Breakfast and lunch being provided
- breakfast, possible transportation
- Buena atención a los niños, enseñarles sobre diferentes culturas, educación sobre racismo y bullying, y buen aprendizaje
- Buena comida y nutrición
- Buena nutrición, y gratis
- Buenas actividades educativas
- Can't think of anything else
- Capacity to address a wide range of special needs
- Caring staff and great elementary school preparation.
- Clases educativas
- Class ratio
- Cleanliness, people who are loving, people who are certified, bright and cheerful atmosphere
- Cleanliness

- Cleanliness. Respectful Staff. Schools that are not over crowded. Great communication between parent and staff.
- Closeness
- Combined care with older adults who are in assisted living.
- Community involvement in all aspects of the functioning of the school. Lots of opportunities for families to meet one another and for business owners and government officials to create relationships.
- Compare with other counties and copy what's good and works for them.
- Creative, experienced-based curriculum; focus on literacy and basic math; loving environment
- Cuidado del niño
- cultural exposure, diversity
- Culturally diverse programs, reasonable classroom sizes, affordable and available spaces for all backgrounds of students.
- Culturally influenced lesson plans
- Culturally responsive teaching for Black and Latino/a students. Teachers trained in culturally responsive pedagogy
- Curriculum
- Curriculum
- Curriculum that prepares kids for school, Reading program.
- Curriculum that would prepare students for elementary school
- curriculum, time,
- Curriculum, training/qualifications of staff, class size, physical facilities
- Current Technology resources
- developmentally appropriate (ie. still play based, not sitting them down with workbooks and flash cards)
- Developmentally appropriate practices, positive reinforcement used within the classroom by caregivers, access to outdoors for at least an hour per day, child-led learning opportunities.
- Developmentally appropriate teaching. Play-based. Significant time spent outside. If not free for everyone, a mix of subsidy/private pay children in each class is important (should not contribute to the racial or class segregation of our education system).
- Developmentally informed (ie no requirement for 2 year olds to be potty trained and no time-outs utilized by staff), plenty of free outdoor play, and plenty of staff support (low ratios of children to staff and fair staff compensation/time off of work)
- Diverse staff and students. Arts and STEM programs.
- Diversity
- Diversity and preparation for Kindergarten
- Diversity of children and staff. Healthy food - no candy. Teachers are trained to bring lessons of emotional intelligence and resiliency to all aspects of care. Lots of outdoor time and play space. Environmental impact of building and operation of school - LEED building, low VOC materials, paper products vs. dishwasher, etc.
- Diversity of staff, Spanish-language program, significant outdoor time, well-compensated teachers, frequent communication between staff and caregivers.
- Diversity of students, available to all (universal), hours to fit a normal work day, AFFORDABILITY!
- Diversity, inclusion, ability to handle food allergies
- Diversity, Quality and Equality
- Diversity, snacks, strict rules and regulations and great teachers.
- Diversity.
- Don't know
- Don't raise taxes to fund it.
- Dual language
- dual language programs
- Early stem and multiple language curriculum
- Economic and racial diversity, in student population and staff. Staff educated in special needs students

- Economic diversity is a must.
- Education just making sure that the child is learning.
- Education Program used for the students
- Education: teaching students different languages, helping with potty training, learning different cultures
- El dinero y el transporte
- Emphasis on play, outdoor time vs “kindergarten readiness” in a traditional sense. Would love a forest school.
- Engaging activities, engaged teachers, teachers which have been at the school for more than 1-2yrs (low turn-over), culturally inclusive/diverse
- English-Spanish language instruction.
- Enrichment activities
- Enrichment programs such as library book mobile visits, music, etc.
- Enseñanza
- Enseñanza de lectura
- Escuela de verano
- essential outdoor environments, good nutrition. I would be willing to pay for these essential-to-me services.
- ethnic diversity, quality teachers, play based learning, readiness for K
- Everyone getting in that applies and parents being able to pick their choice of preschool program.
- Evidence based teaching styles, flexible child-centered environment, focus on learning outdoors and nature, teachers given time to teach and not pulled out constantly for meetings
- Evidence-based teaching methods, lots of time for free play, play-based learning environment, healthy snacks and lunches
- Evidenced based curriculum; very high quality and living wage paid staff; I'd be less concerned with them having flashy toys or equipment
- evidenced-based education practices, provided lunch and snacks, values diversity and culturally-sensitive
- Exámenes para determinar autismo, o habilidad de sospechar si un niño tiene autismo
- Expanding services to more families who are in need.
- Exploration of many different cultures
- Expose to different languages: Spanish, Chinese, French. Start early with Math and Science. Introduce finances, earning money at an early age.
- Exposure to a second language
- Exposure to diversity. Spanish lessons.
- exposure to multiple languages; certified early childhood ed educators
- Extend the cut off date to September 30th
- Extra curricular activities
- Extracurricular activities to help children develop more skills a work support of other agencies and local business. Ex. yoga for children to learn how to relax and be free of stress. Music, other languages, gardening etc.
- Family Supports
- Family volunteer opportunities.
- Fee scale based on income, part time options
- Field trips
- Field Trips
- Financial aid and scholarships. Work to pay opportunities. We fall right above vouchers and cannot get help and cannot afford preschool. Very sad about this.
- Flexibility in hours and days. Different families and different children need different options especially at a very young age.
- Flexibility is a necessity, especially because I work overnight.
- Flexibility is vital. For populations with low and moderate incomes, parents experience very little choice in how they raise and care for their children. The problem with state/city/county interventions like community-funded pre-school is that while it meets the immediate need that parents have for childcare, it often does not meet the secondary need that parents have, which is for agency and self-determination. Parents need to have agency, not just be confronted with a rigid program. Many parents want nothing more than to raise their own young children in the years before elementary school. However, an unequal and unjust society deprives many parents of that option. Therefore, these programs, while meeting a vital need for working parents, should seek to find ways to give agency and power to parents, rather

than simply replace the parents as the primary locus of authority and agency in childcare and education for their children.

- Flexibility on hours. I am a teacher who works starting at 7, so it would be great to have some options on early start times.
- Focus on kindergarten readiness (letter-sound correspondence, counting, writing letters, exposure to classroom routines and schedules)
- Focus on play-based learning. Not ever, \*ever\* homework or any kind of rigorous academic/testing environment.
- Food for children. Especially those that come from homes in food deserts where they don't have easy access to healthy food.
- Food, outdoor play, playbased curriculum
- For it to be year round.
- Foreign language immersion
- Foreign language immersion/daily class (preferably Spanish)
- Foreign language programming
- Foreign Languages
- Free breakfast and lunch
- FREE FOR ALL!
- Free for Durham's most vulnerable kids. Let's make it happen!
- Free lunch
- Free lunch program
- Free Lunch.
- Free or reduced food programs
- Free/reduced breakfast and lunch programs, or free breakfast and lunch for all students regardless of household income
- Full day or after care
- Funding
- Good adult/student ratios, cultural and ethnic diversity in the classes, safety, more time playing than structured learning
- Good education
- Good learning environment
- good quality environment for the child to grow and have fun, while learning
- good ratings
- Good safe outdoor space with plenty of outdoor play time, developmentally appropriate curriculum design that allows children to be creative and does not force them to do what everyone else is doing, at least one teacher per room has an early childhood education degree, healthy food provided or allows you to bring in your own (healthy means fresh fruit and vegetables, whole grains, nothing canned, organic milk and no chocolate milk)
- Good teachers
- great educators
- Great staff
- Great staff with skills and education
- Great structure and being very organized.
- greater attention to active play pedagogy than traditional academics
- Have ability to help design/influence curriculum with teacher
- Having a curriculum to help better prepare kids for kindergarten.
- Having bilingual teachers. Also, not having slots just open to low income families. All kids should have that pre school stepping stone to better prepare them for elementary.
- Having enough space to provide care for all 4 year olds so that parents can work and at least try to be self sufficient.
- Having teachers who are patient and truly care about the success of the children; open communication between the teachers and parents regarding their children's behavior/success; curriculum that aids in building character in addition to writing/reading; incorporation of culture into art projects (i.e. since there's a large Spanish population, possibly creating a drawing centered around a Spanish holiday; since it's February, completing a couple of activities in celebration of this).
- Headstart
- Healthy food

- Healthy food, if snacks provided. Attractive, safe outdoor spaces for play.
- Healthy meal options Outdoor learning environments
- Healthy meals and a curriculum that will have them prepared for kindergarten!
- Healthy meals and security
- Healthy meals.
- Help single parents out who are trying to work
- Help with transportation first and foremost. Schools Closer to the home Prepare the meals at the school instead of a second party to many hands handling the food (germs)
- high number of kids in preschool
- high quality programing with a staff who truly cares for my child.
- High quality staff. Good teacher and child ratios. Good communication with the administration ant the teachers
- high quality teachers who are well paid
- High quality, teacher education, healthy meals
- High quality; developmentally appropriate with well trained staff.
- Highly qualified educators, play-based, support services available, diversity that reflects the diversity of our area, ease the transition to kindergarten, keep kids together to kindergarten if possible
- Highly qualified, well paid staff, low ratios
- Highly trained staff and developmentally appropriate activities
- hours that match elementary schools
- I can't think of something at the moment but if I do I will address it.
- I do not require transportation but either a free transport option should be available or pre-schools should be located within walking distance of large urban populations that are most likely to not own a car.
- I don't think that people should be charged
- I just know that without the speech delay my son wouldn't be in preschool because we cannot afford it. But he has flourished in many ways since he began attending, all kids should have that opportunity.
- I think community funded preschool is a desirable option if it is universal, in that it is provided at no cost or same cost to all kids regardless of income.
- I think it would be great to have universal 4k for all durham county children. We know the science says that education 0-5 is essential for kids to succeed. It would be great to have teachers that are representative of the kids of Durham with different ethnic backgrounds. I think teachers have to be paid a living wage or even better.
- I think its important to have a choice what school your child starts with
- I think preschool should be available to everyone. This is highly improtant for the childs learning experience.
- I want my child to feel comfortable and safe around the staff and students he shares a classroom with. I don't want my children harmed by anyone or bullied by anyone.
- I would expect exceptionally high quality teachers. I've visited a range of preschool options for each of my children and would never send, even if free, my children to a religious preschool, a place where children are lined up and yelled at, or where adults huddle together on the playground instead of playing with the children. We have money, so we've sent our kids to what we consider the best in town (First Presbyterian, KIN, The Little School)
- I would like for children not be held back based on their birthday because that puts an extra burden on parents who are struggling to pay for childcare. Qualified trained teacher with verifiable credentials. Foreign language and computer classes
- I would like to see PreK programs at the elementary schools that children will go on to attend.
- I would love to see two way immersion programs for Spanish/English in the area. I would do everything in my power to find a quality school that would help my child maintain/develop his bilingualism.
- I would want the kids to get LOTS of outdoor time - at LEAST an hour (30 min in the morning and 30 min in the afternoon), with available gross motor activities available inside for rainy days
- I would want the program to be geared toward serving students who would not otherwise get a preK experience, and students with means should pay more than those without (who should be given priority and be able to attend for free)
- I'm still bitter over the ncga caps on class size taking away our pre-K spot at morehead elementary. So keeping the nc general assembly away from our kids would be high on my list. I would love to see them all be Montessori pre schools.
- I'd love for it to disproportionately benefit those that can't necessarily afford private options. And I want wealthier families to subsidize poorer families so that their children can participate.

- I'd want a play-based program that focused on letting the kids learn through play and had them up and running around as much as possible. I'd like it to be a diverse setting so my child learns early how important diversity is. I would not support my taxes going to pay for any pre-schools with religious affiliations.
- Ideally it would be at kids base elementary school. It would get the kid use to going, familiarize the kids with the school and the school with the kids. Might help base school enrollment.
- IEP services
- If sliding scale it should be a limit
- I'm particularly interested in free pre K or low fee Pre-K programs at an elementary school with a full day option. Our kids are in a daycare center and i would like to transition them to school with a pre k program at the school but haven't found any.
- Important to incorporate other cultures, field trips out of their neighborhoods, teachers should be well prepared and confident in their field.
- Inclusive design, aimed towards building diversity and tolerance
- Inclusive school. Quality education. Parental involvement recommended/required. Allows kids with special needs to enroll.
- Incorporating sign language would be a huge bonus- it is how our youngest communicates and is shown to be a great tool for typically developing children's language development.
- Inculquen buenos valores y buena educacion
- It is MOST IMPORTANT to provide high-quality preschool for children living in poverty. I strongly believe that affluent children already have access to everything they need to succeed regardless of whether they attend preschool or not. I liked this article describing high quality pre-schools:<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2014/04/22/304563233/what-exactly-is-high-quality-preschool>
- It would be best for it to be rolled into each elementary school. Would be great to take my four year old to the same school as my other children. After school care would be absolutely essential.
- It would be great to have well-researched curriculum available, such as Montessori.
- It would be important that they taught based on current research for that age group. I think it is necessary that kids have a lot of out door time and really focus on social-emotional growth not just ABCs and sight words.
- It's very important when Durham County Government has money from the State that they use it for families in need. Instead of giving it back to the State which happened this year. The pubic needs to be made aware when the County has money which didn't happen.
- It's great
- I've been denied help from you guys because I own my own business, it is commission based. I was told I cannot receive help because I can't prove that i am working. I find this view to be difficult on women who work in different fields other than 9-5. This perspective has set me back financially quite a bit as I cannot get childcare. Have you every tried to work 40+ hrs/week with a toddler? Can't be healthy for my son either. Something has to give.
- Just a learning environment...
- Just be able help families out
- Just being able to afford it and also quality teachers
- Kindergarten prep, early reading and handwriting skills, STEM, imaginative play and creative expression
- Kindergarten readiness
- Knowing that extensive background checks and mental screenings were performed
- La enseñanza, la escritura y el habla.
- Language immersion
- Language immersion for English speaking kids to learn languages like Spanish. Lots of outside play.
- language immersion would be amazing
- Language immersion. Quality of teachers and class size.
- Language skills
- Language, art,music, physical/outdoor play
- learning /teaching Spanish to children
- Learning a different language
- Learning activities
- Learning and educational curriculum is up to date
- Learning curriculum
- Learning experience for children

- Learning fundamentals
- Learning second language
- Learning through play- NOT watered down kindergarten. Lots of time outside. Teachers compensated at the level of elementary teachers, not at minimum wage like many early childhood centers do currently. Teachers with teaching degrees. A variety of approaches (Reggio Montessori Creative Curriculum Bank St approach etc).
- Lenguaje extranjero
- lesson plans/homework sent home....special vists maybe have different people or organizations come and teach different things
- let children enjoy exploring and learning
- Licensed teachers and assistants
- Location (surrounding area), bilingualism, STEM incorporating
- Location, transportation and affordability
- long recess, plus strong academics, montessori options
- Look, my children (one almost 4; the other 1) are currently in a daycare center that will prepare them for kindergarten and they will in all likelihood remain there. The thing is, we pay a fortune for two kids in full-time daycare (over \$2000/month). While we don't qualify for any assistance, this is a significant portion of our income and keeps us from achieving any financial goals (we are paycheck to paycheck with a mountain of debt we can't begin to touch because of this). So if there was a possibility for them to start publically-funded school a year earlier we would jump on that. Of course a reasonable level of quality (as in any public school) would be expected
- Lots of free play
- Lots of outdoor play and a montessori type curriculum, not a curriculum based on typical kindergarten.
- Lots of outdoor, unstructured play time. Young children need to move, not sit still in classrooms all day.
- Lots of playtime
- Lots of unstructured free time. Space and time for outside play. A system that does not allow wealthier families that can pay for preschool to fill all the spots and push out more impoverished families.
- Love and care for community
- Love and disciplin and godliness
- Love seeing the Montessori Curriculum being used in preschool level.
- Loving and qualified teachers
- Loving, caring environment, learning, fun
- Low # of children in class.
- Low child to teacher ratio.
- Low child to teacher ratio. Qualified and experienced teachers. Parent volunteer opportunities and good communication between teaching staff and parents is essential.
- Low turnover of staff, required vaccinations
- Lunch program
- Lunch provided in full time center
- Lunch/snaxks
- Making sure all kids can eat for free.
- Making sure that my child is in the best facility.
- Making sure that the facilities are a safe environment.
- Making sure that there are healthy food options, plenty of indoor and outdoor activities, curriculum that actually teaches my child the basics to be ready for elementary school
- Making sure that these programs would be diverse racially, socioeconomically, and culturally.
- Making sure the teachers are very highly educated in all areas of age groups. Having a teacher that knows different languages and cultures helps support the preschool and school age children with learning.
- Mas educacion accesible a los padres sobre programas pre-escolares
- Meal program
- Meal Programs
- Meals
- Meals for the kids.
- Meals provided Play based curriculum Health screenings
- Meals provided at preschool
- Montessori based teaching

- montessori like programming
- Montessori options
- Montessori or play-based structure
- Montessori type school. Lots of play for kids. Small student/teacher ratio.
- Montessori/Reggio or some kind of project-based kid-led philosophy would be awesome. Lots and lots of outside time. Wishlist: intergenerational time, access to social services.
- Moral values and character building.
- MORE SPACES
- Most important to us is a play-based preschool that is not overly focused on academic readiness. We entered our daughter in the lottery for the Durham Montessori preschools, but didn't get in. These pre-k programs are highly desirable and should be made available to all Durham 4 year-olds, not just the lucky few who can afford to live in the walk zone.
- Muchas actividades en el program preescolar
- Multicultural
- Multi-cultural immersion
- Multi-cultural setting.
- Multilingual, reading program, writing program, math program, learning through play, and the arts
- Music programs like Kids Note
- My child is just 2.5 years old, I'm in the research process and trying to understand the education system in the country and State. I don't have an informed opinion at this time.
- NAEYC certification, living wages paid to teachers, lead teachers with college degrees in the field, professional development offered to teachers
- NAEYC certified, maintain high amount of play, high amount of diversity, high amount of partnership with families
- No applications for acceptance but enrollment
- No long wait lists !
- Non standardized testing
- None
- None, all bases were covered in this document
- Not overcrowded, safe, good teacher/student ratio, diverse, must be full time 8-6 5 days / week
- Not sure
- Not sure at this time
- Nothing in your questionnaire is getting at quality. I would only send to a community-funded preschool program if it was of high quality. I would be willing to pay more taxes for it, but again, only if it was of high quality. It's hard to answer your questionnaire because my answers would differ if it was high quality or low quality. And to be honest, my expectation for a county-funded program is that it would not be of very uneven quality, similar to our county elementary schools (from what I've heard - my kids aren't in elementary school yet). My kids are going to a Montessori preschool that is Spanish immersion. I would place a high premium on a language immersion program offered by the county that is of high quality.
- nutrition
- Nutrition breakfast, snacks, and lunch. Outdoor experiential learning Hands-on learning Programs that help parents and teachers support each other
- Nutrition is very important to us so if the school would provide snacks or lunch- must be healthy and also accommodate vegetarians, etc. Would also look for movement, art, language (Spanish) incorporated into curriculum along with other educational activities
- Nutritional lunch and snack options, even with a fee.
- Nutritionally balanced meals
- Nutritious meals
- Offer second language learning.
- Offering good quality nutrition on a daily basis.
- Open
- Open to low income families
- Other important features include: economic, racial/ethnic, and cultural diversity among teachers and children in the programs, highly qualified and caring teachers, opportunities for individualized learning (including in a non-classroom setting), and little-to-no passive screen time.

- Out of school events sports, arts, theater, music etc. That parents can pay extra for but at least have those options within a community they are already familiar with.
- Outdoor activities, introduction to Spanish, Prep for kindergarten
- Outdoor play
- Outdoor play, possibly foreign language instruction
- Outdoor playtime, farm animals
- outdoor time for the kids
- Outdoor time. Current prek programs in Durham only require 15 minutes and I believe 4yos need much more than this.
- outside play, play-based education, affordable
- parenting class
- Part of neighborhood elementary school
- Paseos - field trips
- Paying teachers a living wage Regio emilia curriculum Lots of outside time Teachers with college degrees NAEYC certified
- Personal entrenados para terapia de habla, comportamiento y Others necesidades como el autismo. Ayuda para los ninos y las familias con dichas necesidades especiales.
- Personal que esten capacitadas para ayudar con terapia de habla
- Personal que sea bilingue
- Personal que tenga mas contacto con los ninos y sean dedicados
- physical activity options like sports or any team building activities to encourage friendships, fitness and inclusion for all children
- play
- play and social focus rather than academics and "classroom type expectations"
- Play based
- Play based and inclusive classrooms
- Play based curriculum
- Play based learning, social skills, pre-k skills
- Play based not overly structured, lots of outside time
- Play based programs implementing current best practices for preschool, highly qualified staff.
- Play based, honors diverse cultural values and traditions, dual language option
- Play based, lots of outside time, teaching social and emotional intelligence, not making kids sit still and inside
- Play-based and project-based curriculum, NOT academic focused; lots of outside/nature time
- play-based approach
- Play-based curriculum Learning through play and projects- not worksheets!
- Play-based curriculum; located at my neighborhood public elementary school so there is one pick-up and drop-off for all my kids.
- Play-based curriculum; strategies for ensuring that preschool settings are better integrated (by race, class, ability, etc.); transportation available for families that need it; at least one Pre-K class in every elementary school
- play-based developmentally appropriate learning environment that allows young kids to develop a love of learning and social skills essential to success in early education.
- Play-based learning style; child care providers should have a certain level of Education in the appropriate field
- Play-based program
- Play-based program that focuses on social skills and creative play as well as academics.
- Play-based, certified teachers, low child-staff ratios
- Play-based, lots of time outdoors for physical activity and free play, focus on social-emotional development
- play-based, nice outdoor areas, some kind of physical education, music classes
- Playbased, not too many kids per adult
- Play-based, plenty of outside time each day
- play-based, use current research and best practices in human development, nutrition, education and policy to provide a quality experience.
- Please, please provide this for our community!
- Pre school is free everywhere but here. It is a shame that most places your child is guaranteed pre k at 4 FOR FREE but this money hungry place is squeezing every penny they can from families. Education should be free. Pre k should be a part of each elementary school anyway. Stop being greedy!!!!

- Preparedness for kindergarten
- Preparing child for kindergarten and social skill development
- Preschool should be the same fee for all unless in a private school setting.
- Programs for single parents, programs for parents enrolled in school with no full time income, scholarship programs for children below or above development lap standards
- Provide EC services, play based, good nutritious food.
- Provide transportation
- Provided healthy food options, outdoor play areas
- Providing meals for families in need
- Qualified and caring teachers and the facility must be clean. The staff shod be professional at all times.The facility must also be a safe nurturing environment
- Qualified staff, safe space to play/learn, access to quality materials/manipulative, clean
- Quality care, quality staff and a well-rounded curriculum.
- Quality curriculum and staff
- quality of curriculum, qualification of teachers, gentle disciplinary methods, quality of food
- quality of education, class size and environment all matter.
- quality of instruction.
- quality of program and teachers
- quality of service
- Quality of teachers, meals provided, and special services offered (speech or other therapy).
- Quality of the program
- Quality of the programs, quality staff. Access to appropriate materials. And to clarify an above answer, I do not find it important that teaching staff share my culture, but when it also said "values" I found myself considering that to be important. I do appreciate and value exposure to a variety of cultures.
- Quality programs that follow evidence-based criteria. Well-educated teachers.
- Quality staff
- Quality teachers and staff, well educated and prefer at least half of the staff/faculty with advanced degrees
- quality teachers, creative curriculum, low student teacher ratio
- Quality wages for early childhood workers so that they are on a similar pay scale as teachers.
- Quality well paid teachers
- Quality, trained and licensed teachers as well as outside time!
- Que empiecen a los 3 años el preescolar
- Que haga mucha enseñanza
- Que no hubiera, ningún tipo de favoritismo, ya sea por raza, idioma, religión o cultura.
- Que nos puedan hacer saber si ellos ven algun comportamiento no usual a los niños de la misma edad.
- Racial and ethnic diversity and discussion, opportunities for parental involvement, outdoor play, classrooms and curricula that allow for movement and following children's interests, competitive wages for teachers
- Racial equity.
- Racially diverse classrooms
- Reading initiatives
- reading, math skills, artistic expression are a must (STEAM programming) special features - open playgrounds, health/exercise programs
- Real selling points would be curriculum (Montessori or Reggio Emilia would be very exciting) and outdoor / nature / garden time.
- Reggio Emiglia style learning and instruction, evidence based instruction, play and time outside
- Rigorous quality control and the same ratings/oversight mandated by the NC Dept of Child Care as other daycare centers for accurate comparison.
- Safe
- Safe environment
- Safe Environment Fun/Educational (the child is excited to learn) Variety of ways to teach
- safe for all the children and making sure the staff are well trained and energetic and patience
- Safety
- Safety
- Safety

- Safety and cleanliness
- Safety is very important.
- Safety of children.
- Safety, detailed background and information on all care givers including sub teachers, video and/or regular updates on child throughout the day or as much as frequent as I feel needed.
- safety, healthy meals, single parent workshops, volunteer based classes
- Safety, the material my children are learning I would like to be in the loop
- Same level of education and access to supplies that every other child has.
- School pantry
- School provided lunch
- Second language education
- shorter list.
- Siblings close in age able to visit sometimes
- Simple lesson plans, less nap time. More training.
- Sliding scale for working middle class
- Small settings
- Smart, kind, experienced teachers. Diversity.
- snacks & lunch provided living wage for teachers
- Socioeconomic diversity, options for paid, subsidized, and free to co-exist within the same program and location. Bilingual programs. Highly trained staff who are paid a living wage.
- Spanish and English speaking teachers to encourage children to be bilingual from a young age
- Spanish immersion
- Spanish immersion
- Spanish immersion Safety
- Spanish immersion!
- Spanish immersion, diversity
- Spanish immersion.
- Spanish immersion. Adequate staffing. Effective curriculum.
- Spanish language immersion
- Spanish learning opportunities in addition to regular coursework, social activity to encourage group or teamwork, basic skills such as cleaning, participation, etc.
- Spanish literacy education and bilingual staff and educators.
- Spanish option, Montessori option, diversity, all teachers certified, parent engagement, community activities to get to know other parents.
- Special need services as , these kids need more attention
- Special needs children. Adhd with ODD. Asbergers
- Special needs for kids that may be learning disabled
- Specially trained educators are of the utmost importance.
- Specific feature phonic,reading, math, music, art, science and writing.
- Speech Therapy for those who need it
- Sports activities.
- Staff treats the child with kindness and show them that the child is loved
- Stars for the program
- STEAM, preparation for kinder
- STEM programs, Arts Programs, Preparation for future education
- Structure and knowing that my child is learning and not only playing all day. Making sure diapers are being changed before their clothes get soiled.
- Support developmentally delayed kids
- Support for EC needs, eg therapist visits.
- Take dietary preferences into consideration, ie: vegetarian Be mindful of food allergies, ie: peanut offer language lessons (Spanish)
- Teach Spanish, make access equitable to all people, use conscious decision making principles rather than traditional discipline, and encourage creativity among students.

- Teacher credentials
- teachers & asst teachers have college degrees
- Teachers and staff background. Who is allowed in and out. Safety.
- Teachers and staff be paid a living wage with benefits
- Teachers are qualified to teach, good communication with parents
- Teachers education and hours of operation.
- Teachers who are passionate about education.
- Teachers with credentials
- Teaching equity and equality among both genders and all races
- Teaching fundamentals
- Teaching methods that align with currently offered curriculum in public schools, ie using Letter Land to teach literacy.
- Teaching pre-schoolers to be kind and respectful to everyone ...No matter the color of their skin or what neighborhood they are from
- Teaching skills
- Teaching skills, not memorization. Teaching mindfulness, grit, how to handle difficult situations, how to perservere, and not just memorizing ABCs. Studies show that, at this age, children should be learning how to fail and pick themselves back up, and that if they do, they're more successful in reading, writing, math, etc. when they're older.
- Teaching the kids early the earliest the better
- Terapia de habla
- Terapia de habla
- Terapia de habla
- Terapia de habla, before and after school activities
- That enrichment opportunities be paired with athletic activities that can nurture the "whole" child.
- That my child would not be turned away due to lack of space
- That students be prepared for kindergarten and taught at th4 same quality level of care regardless of if a fee is involved or not. It should be preschool, not daycare or babysitting at the age of four.
- That students have an enriching environment where they can grow and learn.
- That teachers were well trained, well educated, and paid a living wage.
- That the kids are being taught about their heritage and the essential skills to help them excel in learning
- That the program include all meals while the child is there (ie: breakfast, lunch, and/or snack). Ensuring that the kids get LOTS of playtime both indoors and out and exposure to art and music activities.
- That the sliding scale fee take into account the amount of money being put out from the household not just what the income says on paper.
- that there are a lot of materials for the children to learn with and lots of one one teacher to student time to make sure they learn as much as possible and that they can move at there own pase.
- That they are AVAILABLE!!! Our infant is on a waitlist at no less than four Durham daycares right now! It's insane that I can't find a place to leave our child so that I can work!
- The application process was clear and efficient. That programs supported inclusive classrooms.
- The before and after care was needed just to have transportation for the child. That was a cost of 200.00. I could not afford it. My child misses school because of that. If I'm at work I sometimes can't get him there and back
- The child's needs
- The community that was funding the programs should be able to utilize them. That is not always the case as the quality of care changes when the community changes. I think that children do well when there are people that look like them and can make them feel safe.
- The education itself
- The education learning process culture and atmosphere and money
- The option to eat for free at school for families that want/need that.
- The preschool program should be accredited and focuses on preparing the children for the kindergarten.
- The programs that Durham county are very helpful
- The teachers! It is essential that there are highly trained, well paid teachers. These teachers should be supported to create an inviting, safe, caring environment. It would be ideal if these teachers had a high levels of Montessori training as this method had been proven to help students cultivate high levels of social and emotional intelligence as well as all the academic skills young children need and want. It is also essential to have a good teacher/kid ratio - like 8 kids per

teacher or less. If food is going to be served it should be high in protein and low in sugar and as fresh and local as possible.

- The type of curriculum offered and food provided. I would want age and developmentally appropriate content that address the socio-emotional aspects of childhood (play-based, possibly Montessori or Reggio Emilia models; NC Pre-K seems to have a good model). If food is provided, I would want it to be a variety of nutritious foods (not french fries and pudding).
- The type of food provided/required. Our kids currently go a school that prioritizes healthy food and lifestyle choices.
- The type of learning at the preschool. I would prefer less rigidity in learning at that age, more play based and going outside.
- They should be tech heavy to start children on the right foot
- They should offer healthy meals free or for a low cost for low income families.
- Time outdoors, regular unstructured play time, some exposure to a foreign language if not full immersion.
- to have a lot of security .
- To have options for parents that don't qualify for financial assistance or free programs because of income but don't have the sufficient money to pay for a private school/child care center
- To have very patience Care takers with in the community funded Durham preschool program
- Top quality teachers; healthy lunch and snack options
- Trained/certified teachers, not just babysitters. Focus on community, diversity, social justice. Academic focus on literacy and beginning math. Time for imaginative play, creativity. NO SCREEN TIME.
- Training/certification of teachers, meals provided
- Transparency and focus on education. I have put my older children in preschool to find out that they were not taught any basics during this time only how to socialize with one another and play outside; although, that is very important it is also important to learn letter recognition and how to follow classroom rules.
- Transparency in every aspect of how things operate on a day to day basis.
- Transportation
- Transportation
- Transportation
- Tutoring
- Tutors
- Type of curriculum that they offer in the Montisorri program is good, focus on the whole child instead of only academics. Learn different cultures.
- Un programa en español y otros idiomas.
- universal access for all children ages 3 and up
- Used best practices for early childhood education, provides plenty of unstructured play time and time outdoors
- ver que los empleados tengan entrnamientos de seguridad para tratar a ninos con servicios especiales y ninos que tengan alergias o otros cuidados especiales. Todos deben estar capacitados cuando ocurra una situacion cual ojala nunca suseda pero es mejor estar preparados.
- Visitors to teach different subjects to add variety to pre school curriculum
- Visual and Performing Arts, Language Studies
- We need to look at the makeup of the communities and who really needs these services. There needs to be enough space to serve all of these individuals. Period.
- Widely available
- Would love to have my son attend pre school at his neighborhood school. That way he wouldn't have to change school multiple times in three years (current pre school for 2 and 3 year olds, then 4 year old Durham pre school program then Kindergarten) Where we moved from in MI they offered a program like this starting at age 3. It wasn't free but was very affordable

**Q28: Is there other input or feedback you would like to give policy-makers and planners regarding plans for a proposed, community-funded Durham PreK program?**

- A 4 year old child should be able to go to pre- k. It shouldnt matter if they are special needs or cant count to 20 or above. Each child should be able to go.
- A community-funded Durham PreK program is a great idea!!! Investing in early childhood education (despite up front costs) has such long-lasting positive outcomes for youth and families, it would be careless to not invest in this idea. I

say this as a person who would probably not need a free program (and will probably keep my son in his current daycare until he is age 5), but I see the value of it for Durham residents.

- A strong preK program is vital to the Durham community. It gives all children, regardless of income, a chance to learn the skills they need to have a solid start in their academic life.
- Accessible and affordable
- Add program for 3 year olds
- Affordable and comfortable and challenge the kids to work hard in education.
- Again when Durham County DSS is given money from the State to help families in need with childcare they need to be responsible and use it for families in need. They didn't do this and to give the money back to the state is totally irresponsible!
- All children deserve the same type of high quality play based early Learning.
- All families should be able to send their students to Pre-K at the age of four. It should be a priority for the city to ensure this option is available to all regardless of income.
- All households should be eligible regardless of how much money they make. In other words, families should not be rejected for not being poor enough. Traditional preschool is so expensive that middle class families become poor after paying \$200/week/child. Don't assume that because we can afford preschool that we don't need assistance like everybody else.
- Another school like Whitted but closer to South Durham
- As a former kindergarten teacher, I saw first hand the importance of PreK for kids success through the year of kindergarten. PreK is a worthy investment of the community to ensure its children are academically and socially successful, both in the short and long term.
- As a former substitute educator in Durham County I know the value of students receiving formal education prior to entering kindergarten. Providing parents financial assistance to allow their children this vital opportunity is something that would help our youth become contributing members of society by giving them a great start education wise.
- As fast as this area is growing, we really need more school options
- As the daughter of a pre-school teacher, and having been fortunate enough to attend preK myself, and send my children to preK, I have seen first hand the substantial benefits preK programs provide to prepare children to learn and adjust to the social expectations needed to participate successfully in school. The more children who are in preK before entering kindergarten, the better for ALL kindergarteners (and beyond) because students are on a more level playing field from the start.
- As you already know, PreK is essential to youth development. Please, please, please make PreK a universal for all children in Durham County.
- At my son's first daycare center, when enrollment dropped they brought in NC Pre-K kids to make up the difference. They put these kids in a class of 3 year olds which was a disservice to both groups of children. I think that this is poor execution of this program.
- At this time, I have no further feedback.
- Ayudar con programas para necesidades especiales
- Be receptive to changing the program as you learn from your errors/mistakes
- Besides providing care for these children, teachers and caregivers need support, educational resources, and workshops to address the needs of children with special needs.
- Better options for before and after school care.
- Both of my children had late birthdays so we paid for an extra year of daycare/preschool for them. They were both denied a spot in DPS pre-K. It was very frustrating! Affordable or free pre-K should be an option for everyone.
- Child to teacher ratios regulations are impractical and should be reevaluated. Classrooms structures based on these mandates do not allow children to receive adequate supervision or attention and are not conducive to learning.
- Childcare costs are a challenge, regardless of income level. Education begins before kindergarten. Unfortunately, it becomes a problem and issue when kindergarten teachers have to teach a pre-k curriculum in their classroom. Universal pre-k benefits everyone.
- Childcare network was not a great option for me
- Collaborating with UNC child development. Bilingual/Spanish immersion programs
- Communication/marketing to Durham families about these potential new and cost-free preschools is essential. We wouldn't want to miss out on knowing (when) they're available.

- Community are stronger when both parents have the option to work. Childcare costs limit a family's ability to work and make money. Culturally a mom stays home which further adds to the pay inequity, retirement benefits, and financial options a woman can access.
- Community funded preK is great, but there also needs to be more support for parents across the board, even if they want to stay home with their kids or just have schedules that don't work with preK.
- Community-funded preK could make such a difference for underprivileged kids, giving them time and space to play, explore outside, be creative, and learn to work with others. Giving working families a chance to make it. My husband and I make plenty of money in comparison to others in Durham, and we still really struggle to pay the bills for our kids' preschool. I'd also urge you to consider the addition of early literacy programs in this preK program. I have taught high school in Durham County for many years. Early literacy programs are ESSENTIAL. I teach high school kids who struggle to read every day. Of course they're not going to do well on the standardized tests or make the grades that they need to get into college or have options for their futures. They start to believe that they aren't smart and that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. We can do better by these kids. Early literacy and quality preK will give them a fighting chance.
- Consider necessities such as rent when dererming sliding scale fee.
- considering the current state and cost of early childhood care and education, there's little that can be broken. I encourage a discovery mindset to pilot best practices in research over strict enforcement of current licensing standards.
- Continue to keep up the great work
- Currently, the process for preK is a nightmare. It is confusing and draw out over six months.
- Developmentally appropriate practice is so important. Play-focused, lots of outdoor time. Focused on social emotional development.
- Different cut-off date than kindergarden.
- Do it now. Only host preschool at DPS neighborhood elementary schools - no magnets, no charters. Let's gets families excited about DPS neighborhood schools!
- Do not fund this by reallocating funds that currently go to other schools or grade levels. Choose a proven curriculum. Start small and plan to scale up. Have the initial spots be available by entering a lottery but advertise the program in multiple languages in all Durham neighborhoods and select households proportionally from different income brackets to make the program equitable. Finally, you must build in program evaluation to prove the value of the program to the community, taxpayers, the state and beyond!
- Don't understaff this program if you decide to go through with this. I know teachers of QuickStart in Chapel Hill and they are frustrated with the overcrowding in classrooms and lack of assistance for classrooms with special need students.
- Donations and fundraiser s
- Don't deny single mothers help! That's what happened to me with no money coming in and an infant.
- Don't raise taxes to fund it.
- Early childhood education is essential for a thriving community, made up of thriving individuals of all ages.
- early intervention makes an enormous difference, universal pre-K is worth the investment
- Early learning it is fundamental for a child education and development. All children need to have the right to an education. I know first hand how much positive impact this had in my children.
- Educators with children should be able to enroll their child at the school in which they work.
- El programa preescolar en muy importante, porque,con este programa los niños aprenden a leer,escribir,a hablar mejor el idioma, y sobre todo ayuda a desarrollarse socialmente para con otros niños y adultos.
- Ensure locations of PreK schools are walkable and bikeable. Many of the target demographic for those needed community-funded PreK (eg low SES) are not car owners, or need transportation arranged. Build this are part of the city-wide plans for improved sidewalk and bicycle infrastructure.
- ensuring safety measures are put into place to help protect the children, teachers, and staff.
- Even as a relatively well paid professional, as a single mother the cost of quality daycare is crushing. The monthly cost of my foster son's current daycare is almost twice our mortgage. And while I do not have to pay it at this time due to him qualifying for the voucher as a foster child, I am in the process of adopting him which would put the burden of that cost on me and my limited income.
- Even though many parents are busy, we want to be involved and completely aware what is going on in our children's' lives. Communication with parents is essential
- Everyone deserves QUALITY childcare, regardless of income!

- Everyone in Durham should have access to quality pre-K regardless of income. The current pre-K schools are difficult to access because of rising housing prices and full priority zones. There needs to be more options.
- excellent educators needed increase teacher pay transportation reasonable pricing if a fee is needed
- Expanding Montessori options would be welcomed. (More slots and/or additional school)
- Extend the cutoff date to September 30th
- Families will be healthier, happier, and this would set up our children for success.
- Field trips
- Flexibility of age cut-off. It is currently at August 31, however I strongly feel that children born within a month of that date should not be penalized or held back from getting the education they deserve for an entire year.
- Focus on quality and accessibility, make it part of the redistricting plan so there is space in elem schools.
- Focus on single parent homes and supporting those that are pursuing long term career goals opposed to odd end jobs. For example, teachers, grad students, or those single parents trying to advance a career.
- Food should be provided to children in such a program.
- For all PreK programs have books for the children and depending on ethnicity children need know about their culture.
- For it to be free for everybody.
- Foreign language immersion
- Free for Durham's most vulnerable kids. Let's make this happen!
- Full day every lady preschool is desperately needed for children with special needs. They do not fit into traditional preschool and it's difficult for parents
- Fully-automated luxury gay space communism please.
- Give priority to families that have WORKING FULL TIME parents instead of people that aren't.
- Government should not fund childcare. That is not a function of government
- Gracias por su apollo
- Great education is key to life's purpose.
- great idea!
- Happy to be apart of it
- Having a lower teacher to child ratio to ensure one on one time.
- Having a part day foreign language program or immersion option would be amazing.
- Having been a kindergarten teacher locally for 10 years, I am a firm believer in giving every child a fighting chance at a great education, and that's starts with the little ones.
- Having small class size is very important so each child have equal attention and learning opportunity during this stage of their lives.
- high quality universal preK would be such a valuable addition to the Durham community. Our kids NEED it. Funding needs to be such that the classrooms would be have highly educated, well supported teachers in them with a focus on social emotional development. WELL SUPPORTED is key so that teachers aren't struggling with challenging kids, lack of supplies, etc.
- High-quality preschool is vital for children to succeed in elementary, middle, and high school. Too many children are slipping through the cracks because they are not ready for Kindergarten and/or reading on grade level by 3rd grade. We need to do more as a community (and I'm willing to invest) to ensure ALL of Durham's children have access to free and affordable, high-quality preschool learning - that focuses on social-emotional and academic supports.
- Hire early childhood certified educators and keep preK developmentally appropriate (large focus on social skills, problem solving, conflict resolution, introduce (but do not expect mastery or memorization) of letters/numbers, no worksheets, mainly free play/exploration time) research shows this is how young children learn best. Incorporating ASL would be a wonderful addition for all children, but would be especially inclusive and helpful for many special education preschoolers (Down Syndrome, Autism, speech delays, etc).
- How much would the pre-K program cost in addition to regular DPS costs? Giving taxpayers a relative cost for funding pre-K vs. K-12 would be helpful. Also, should try to make Pre-K program all day long to coincide with working parents schedule.
- I already did.
- I also think it's important to consider race with zip codes. Neighborhoods can be very segregated and it's important for preschool to be diverse even if the location is not.
- I am all for community-wide pre-K and believe it would be a huge boost to Durham's kids. Shoot for the stars on this one.
- I am completely against community-funded Durham PreK program.

- I am unclear on the difference in daycare and preschool. It made it hard to answer parts of the survey.
- I assume that the goal here is academic readiness. Paradoxically, the best way to prepare our children for school is to promote play, not phonics or other traditional academic lessons. I would only feel comfortable sending my child to a PreK program that embraced these values. I also think that PreK for four year olds is needed but not enough. So much brain development happens ages 0-3. We are missing a critical window if we start only at 4.
- I believe that communities should have a collection of funds from the actual community to fund the programs that are needed and wanted for the children of those particular communities. We should all put in what we expect to get out of the funding, and allow room for those who are even less fortunate to receive more when needed.
- I believe that families from marginalized communities (i.e. Black and Brown families and families living in poverty) should be prioritized for receiving funding to attend the PreK program. I hope the community-funded program will not be used as a ploy to attract White families to Durham Public Schools.
- I believe there should be more early childhood assistance available to Durham residents, and to low income and students who are in school full time.
- I currently run a coworking space with onsite preschool. I think providing work support for parents with young children along with community funded preschool could be invaluable to the diversity of the Durham work force, providing an opportunity for women (especially among underserved populations) to maintain or establish careers, rather than losing them from the workforce.
- I disagree with Durham Public Schools offering preschool for a small number of families at two elementary schools, only, since the current use of walk and/or priority zones severely restricts attendance to those living in the area around the schools. In particular, the neighborhoods around Watts Elem and Morehead Elem contain plenty of families who can afford private preschool. It seems inequitable to provide public preschool to those with abundant resources (based on median income and/or home price for those neighborhoods) when there are plenty of poor families throughout Durham who are more in need of subsidized, high-quality preschool for their children.
- I do not want to fund this especially since school is optional up to age 7.
- I don't know
- I feel it is important for kids to experience being in a school like environment before kindergarten. This needs to be available for all kids despite financial ability.
- I feel like my son would be more prepared for kindergarten if he had a public school preschool experience. Going from minimal preschool to full day Kindergarten is going to be a difficult transition.
- I feel prek programs are targeted towards low income families and do not provide opportunities for all children across durham co
- I feel that this is incredible important. All children deserve developmentally appropriate educational opportunities. What I do not want to see happen is a trickle down effect of inappropriate academic expectations for young children. Any program implemented should be play based and meet NAEYC standards. We do not need to bring testing and unrealistic standards to the preschool set.
- I fully support universal pre-k. Our children go to a public magnet school with pre-K and the demand is so much higher than the supply.
- I have a child that qualifies for Title I due to her IEP status in Durham Public Schools but we are capped out due to income. However her twin sister, who has no special needs and also does not qualify based on income, was not able to be enrolled in a Title I pre-k program at the same school. It would be helpful if siblings of special needs children are allowed into same school programs. I also find out Title I teacher is constantly pulled out for trainings and meetings and unable to be in the classroom full time.
- I have a child whose birthday is just past the cut off for DPS. It would be better if there were rolling admissions for multi-age classrooms so that as a child turns 3 or 4 or 5 they are able to join a classroom. Integrated classrooms would be preferable to the current segregated prek programs that exist in Durham. Having feeders to local elementary schools would also be cool. I also will only send my kids to a prek that is child centered, play based, and kind. Places that celebrate the child and encourage the parent to be a vital part of the community. There are many models of this in Durham, expand those.
- I hope that the preschool program will be offered by in all public schools as well as more buildings like the Whitted school.
- I hope that they find a way to make it more accessible for these children to receive quality education regardless of where they come from. All the children starting from kindergarten should have the same exposure to more quality in education, field trips, other activities, etc.
- I hope to enroll my child for Pre-K for the 2018-2019 school year through DPS. I feel that ALL 4-year-olds should have the option to attend Pre-K (though not mandatory, if some parents don't prefer it). Though free is ideal, I'm open to a

sliding scale. It's also important to me to immerse my child into a more diverse environment (culturally, racially, economically) than he currently experiences at private daycare, which is why I would prefer a model through his elementary school vs. pursuing pre-k options through our daycare provider.

- I just believe that all kids should be able to go to school at 4 years old my daughter is 3 and has been ready to go to school for some time now I think that the law should change instead of being 5 years old it should be 4 years old, because we have a lot of our kids that's that's willing to participate in school and that's eager to learn I also believe that the girl is advancing so much to our kids need an extra Head Start a extra boost to catch up with technology and the system
- I just want my young children to be safe.... point blank period
- I love that we have strong library system and magnet schools. I think a strong community pre-K would fit in with the community values.
- I love the idea of pre-k for more (or all!0 Durham students! If done well, I think it would go a long way towards helping our community with achievement and income disparity.
- I love the idea. I spent a mortgage payment on pre-k for my first due to my wife's disabilities.
- I love this idea for several reasons. First and foremost - access to quality education at an affordable price is essential to a healthy community. Daycare/preschool is isanely expensive for many working parents, especially if they have more than one young child. Quality, safe, truly affordable pre-K provides so much more than education/daycare for children. It helps support parents to pursue their careers or own education, it reduces financial burden thus allowing families to better meet their other needs (healthcare, housing, food, etc.) instead of putting 1/4 or more of their income towards childcare. And those benefits of parents engaging and progressing in the workforce only serve to strengthen our community as a whole. Also, my child (currently in full-time daycare) has a fall birthday which means she'll miss the cutoff to start kindergarten by a few weeks. Missing the cutoff doesn't both me, but it means that she would functionally "repeat" a classroom at her current daycare. I'd love the option to switch her to an elementary based pre-school for her second pre-k year
- I previously lived in Danville Virginia where they have a public preschool program with 2 schools for just preschoolers. The children are enrolled based on risk factors and them as space allows. It has shown great improvement in retention rates and success of children. I would support a small increase in taxes to put such a program in place to help our community children.
- I really need full day part time which is really hard to find
- I think at 4 all kids should be eligible for school, pre-k and they should also provide transportation, Its not easy being a single mom placing your child in pre k and having to be at the school to pick them up .
- I think funded pre K would really help get more middle income families engaged in their neighborhood public schools early and more likely to send their kids there for elementary school
- I think it's a fantastic plan!
- I think it's a great idea! With the current expectations of kindergarten, we need a way to bridge this gap for low socioeconomic children who may not be prepared for kindergarten readiness otherwise. Making this available/encouraged/even mandated for all children increases diversity and learned acceptance among children. I'm an early childhood occupational therapist and I believe so, so strongly about the benefits of good, quality early childhood education!!! Please do this for our future community! These children will grow up to lead us to a better world!
- I think it's a great idea. PreK has made a tremendous impact in my oldest daughter's life, and I think all kids should have a quality PreK experience. Investing in PreK would pay off over time in the schools and when the kids become adults in Durham.
- I think it's an awesome, amazing plan. We've got our daughter in a private pre-school and it's expensive even though it's one of the cheaper 5-star centers. We love the teachers and that she's been at the same location for 4 years now, but I think all kids deserve a chance to have access to these sorts of environments.
- I think it's awesome. It has blessed our family !
- I think it's imperative that any community-funded PreK program meet high, research-supported quality standards while also remaining financially accessible to parents. There's well-documented evidence (especially from a large study of a universal PreK program in Quebec, <http://www.ecactioncollective.org/index.php/blog/196-does-low-quality-ece-lead-to-negative-outcomes-for-children>) that low-quality care can result in children having poorer long-term outcomes than in the absence of such a program. A program that also ensures more Durham children are academically, socially, and emotionally prepared for Kindergarten would be an enormous asset to the community.

- I think Pre-K is very important, but I encourage you to read research on what type of learning environment is most beneficial for young children. I would love to see more outdoor, free play based programs offered that are financially feasible for more families (and certainly those of financial need).
- I think that children without access to quality preschool should have it. Yet, I am concerned that high quality, private childcare providers could be driven out of business if Durham creates a free, universal preschool for everyone, regardless of risk factors. Could the private providers participate in the Durham funded programs? If so, could they continue their own rich philosophies of learning without being boxed into rigid, black-and-white standards? Current star-rated licenses seem to be determined by factors that don't necessarily provide what is best for children.
- I think that Resilience training & Touchpoints training should be mandatory for all staff
- I think this is a great idea!
- I think this is a great idea. My child currently goes to a daycare that is downtown, full day, and offers a sliding scale that helps ensure diverse classes. We are very happy with the school as a daycare but potentially open to a change for preschool, especially if the curriculum was something exciting - like if you start a public Montessori preschool, we will be there :)
- I think this is a great opportunity for the community. Our son attended a Preschool we were very happy with and we plan for our daughter to attend the same school in the fall. I think it's important to also look at how Durham County can help better fund Durham Public Schools. The South Durham schools are very overcrowded.
- I think this is a wonderful idea and I sincerely hope that it happens. I hope that part of the PreK program will be mindfulness practices like some school systems have begun implementing to train children on nonviolent conflict resolution. Here is an example of one such program:  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/08/mindfulness-education-schools-meditation/402469/>
- I think this is a wonderful idea. When my son was in NC preK we had to drive to Little River to get him to an available preK classroom. We live with in a 5 min drive to Hillandale Elem. I'm very grateful that anything was available but javing something closer would have been even better.
- I think this is an essential program to provide. I would imagine it's a little easier to address major differences in skills before kindergarten as the clock starts ticking to the first EOGs by then.
- I think this is an essential service for the community. The state is unable to support early childhood education despite strong evidence for its benefits, an inclusive program that catches all families that would otherwise fall through the preschool cracks would be wonderful. We are not considering preschool right now because it's not affordable for us, however we make far more than threshold for head start and other public programs.
- I think this is an extremely important and valuable service for our community. Thank you for giving it consideration.
- I think this is really important for lower income people so that they have affordable child care options and don't have to choose between working and taking care of kids. That means it has to be affordable and it has to cover typical work hours - can't just be 6 hours a day. Even if my kids didn't attend it, I would be willing to pay taxes that cover it. If it was really high quality, I would want to send my kids to support it, just as I want to be able to send my kids to public elementary schools in Durham to support them (BUT I'm not yet committed to doing this because I don't have confidence in overall quality at this point).
- I think this should be offered to all children and make it as easy as possible for all parents to access it
- I Think this would be a great idea. Multiple sites on public transit lines would be beneficial
- I think universal access to preK is so important. Our daughters have benefited from attending preK at our local elementary school and it has been a huge value to our family - financially, education-wise, building community, establishing a positive association with school, etc.
- I think we should improve on the programs that we currently have and that we should then continue to partner with childcare facilities to increase teacher effectiveness and fair recruitment policies. I understand helping out those with most need, I would rather have anyone that has a need, to be able to be helped rather than being turned away. Parents that work, need childcare rather than being turned away because they don't meet income requirements or can't afford a child care facility rate. So the message there, that you are competing to a race down approach to make it level for everyone rather than bringing everyone in and improving all kids.
- I understand the appeal of sliding scale preschools, but it creates an economic hazard. If people who can afford to pay have to pay close to that of private programs, then they will simply choose the school with better amenities. If the sliding rate is too steep, the preschool deprives itself of people who can pay more and the program will struggle.
- I will love for field trips to be incorporated in the program. More gardening, and different language learning.
- I would actually love for their to be language options for English speakers to develop non-English languages. Not necessarily immersive, but some kind of option.

- I would be a strong advocate for fully funding universal Pre-K in Durham if I had more information about measures to ensure high-quality care.
- I would be less-likely to send my children to a PreK program if it functions like a mini-kindergarten; focusing heavily on structured lessons and less play-based learning. I value a program that considers the development of the whole child-- physical, social, emotional, cognitive.
- I would have really appreciated any kind of program that I could have enrolled my daughter into that was 1-3 days per week, because her birthday falls in October, so she misses the cut off and ended up in the same pre-school class for way longer than she is getting benefit from. Since it is the County/State's rule to not allow early entry, it would have been nice to have any kind of different, more structured setting to send her to while waiting out this last year to attend Kindergarten. To introduce her to a more formal and elementary school setting and provide more structured, Kindergarten preparatory lessons.
- I would hope planners work hard to prevent segregated programs, and to build in anti-racist education principles.
- I would like a Spanish immersion program.
- I would like for my 4 year old to go to Pre-K in a school environment. I would be willing to help pay for her to attend. Right now she is staying with a family friend. I feel like she needs to be in a more instructional surrounding.
- I would like to see more teachers trained in special needs children so they can help children be the best version of who they are through love and understanding. ALL kids learn and thrive differently. I feel that testing all kids on the same scale sets them up for failure in the future. Test them who they are not who we think they should be.
- I would like to see Spanish immersion or another language
- I would love for Durham to provide public pre-K for all residents and would be willing to help with initiatives (including obtaining funding) toward that end.
- I would love to see a community funded preschool program developed before my son starts school
- I would love to see a community funded preschool program. We plan to send our son to public school and would prefer a community preschool to a private preschool.
- I would love to see diverse, play based preschools with an emphasis on social emotional development and high quality teachers and related service providers.
- I would love to see it in my community. It is so hard being a mother of 2, working full time and not being able to provide affordable childcare for my children. Right now I only have 1 in school because it is so expensive that I am not able to put my other child in school at this time. I don't want him to miss out on learning so this would be a great opportunity for both of them to go in without me having to stress about it. It sucks to have to choose putting them in a school to get educated or feeding them :(.
- I would love to see more community funded pre-K programs. I find it unfair that people who have significant disposable income living in neighborhoods near Watts and Morehead get preferential entrance for their preschoolers while people on limited incomes struggle to make ends meet. The spaces we have should go to those with the least economic options, not to those with the most options.
- I wouldnt like for it to be community i would like for the state to continue to pay for it
- I'm not in favor of community funded preK.
- If you are going to do community funded pre-K, do not make it be part of the entry to the magnet schools! It needs to be a totally separate program, and the magnet entry should start at K. Don't force people to pay for pre-K they may or may not want in order to get into the magnets (thinking about Montessori magnets in particular). The current system is unfair. Not everyone wants full-day preschool.
- If you are going to do it, it should be adequately funded in order to actually serve the community best.
- I'm glad you're asking about this! Childcare and preschool are some of my top concerns as a working parent. There are options out there, but there are not a lot of good, affordable options for working parents. High quality preschools and day cares cost more than many people's mortgage and are essential to working parents.
- I'm in law school right now and can't afford for me to go to school, my daughter to go to Pre-K , and childcare for my 1.5 year old son. We need Pre-K to be affordable or free. My daughter thrives in structured learning environments, and I've loved seeing her grow in a very part time program. She would Excel in a full time Pre-K program if given a chance.
- I'm so grateful that I am able to afford quality pre-school and childcare for my little ones and this is something that should be available to ALL parents and kids. The future of our society depends on it.
- Important to have good quality education accessible to all the families and extended hours for the working families.
- Important to have programs for kids to help them early on.
- In a short amount of time, we'd see huge changes in equity, mental health, etc of our community if we provide universal preK!

- In my experience with the human services sector, childcare is a significant barrier to individuals finding and maintaining employment - so this survey is timely. Giving agencies funding to help support families that find themselves in this predicament would be helpful.
- In the curriculum they should have essential things. They should feel that they belong.
- Increases in cost of living in Durham make it almost impossible to pay for children to go to preK. The population size of Durham should be congruent with the availability of PreK.
- Integrate. Music rich, art rich programs. Montessori style
- IPreK is essential to the growth and development of children. Please follow through and make this happen.
- It feels problematic to me, as a parent, that there are not great PreK options in Durham. The lottery feels very unlikely and the cost is often prohibitive. Affordable options would be great.
- It has to be equitable and accessible to all people. Please keep in mind that volunteer programs are not necessarily equitable. Making the program equitable will require intention and should involve people of multiple races, ethnicities, and genders.
- It is a needed and valuable service to address the need for quality, affordable child-care in this area and, especially, provide more equal access to these services. Appreciate the outreach and interest in this initiative.
- It is SO important that we start children off with positive educational experiences, and I am really glad that this is on the table. We visited Whitted which we LOVED but it felt like we were only able to solve our "school problem" for one year, without knowing whether we'd be able to get into a non-failing elementary for K. We ultimately (with substantial financial aid and sacrifice) took a spot at a private school for PreK just so we would know that we have a quality K option if the lotteries don't work out in our favor. The system is so broken beyond PreK by all of the charters, and lotteries, and schools that are barely up to standards that it is difficult to see where we can improve things, but providing kids with a healthy introduction to education is a critical component!
- It is unfair that the Montessori magnets have free preK and other schools do not. If only some schools can have free preK it should be title one school. But all 4 year olds need preK, not just the ones who have super high needs. I've been told my son is not special needs enough to qualify for preK. He's at risk for delays due to a congenital condition but it's not enough to get him into the preK program.
- It should be free for all parents or on a sliding scale where more people can afford to send their child to day care or pre-K. The system they have now is understandable but I feel they should give more grants/ vouchers out so that parents want have to wait no longer than 3months to assure that their child can be placed in a decent and secure daycare or pre-school.
- It should be made available for everyone irrespective of household income.
- It shouldn't look like a less desirable location to send your children.
- It would be a good idea to somehow advertise preschool options better. I'm not sure the best way, but I consider myself a fairly informed parent, and I learned about several new options based on what I read (and then researched online) in this survey. I'm sure I'm guilty of not paying enough attention, but still, anything you could do to make sure parents get the message that preK is available and beneficial would be great.
- It would be beneficial to have a clear strategic plan that could be communicated to the community; focusing on answering who, how, when, etc logistical questions. Engaging a variety of nonprofits and community organizations to support the thinking work and to leverage communication. Highlighting the long-term cost effectiveness of early childhood is powerful for stakeholders. Thinking and communicating how this merges with mayoral and city council priorities like affordable housing and food access.
- It would be great if free pre k was offered to everyone regardless of income or "need" for it. Everyone should be able to send their child to a free preschool just like we send our children to a free school starting at pre k.
- It would be great to intentionally link participating families who have challenges meeting basic need to community-based organizations who can help meet families' basic needs (ex. diaper bank, food pantries, housing, etc).
- It would really benefit this community!!
- It's difficult for families who "make too much" to receive financial assistance because they are a two parent household but truly don't make enough to pay for quality childcare. This is a huge population that is being disserved and are paying taxes just like those who are make a couple thousand less and do qualify.
- It's a great idea and very important for Durham's population
- It's really needed in Durham. We had it in SC and I was disappointed to find it wasn't available here.
- Its important to provide accessible, affordable childcare to all. So families can go to work, so families can survive financially and continue to support the community. Our house makes 90,000/year but can not afford to support anything in the community, zero economy, because I spend \$1800/month in childcare. I do not even like this childcare but it's the only thing I can afford b/c my family has decided to continue to work to be able to support the LIFE and

Years of our family. Yes, these programs desire to go to low income BUT they deserve to be somewhat accessible to higher income too. If you want to provide a good mix of students, you will make it accessible to all incomes levels. Help us stop dividing our children based on income by making it accessible to ALL!

- It's tough budgeting for private preschool- I realize we are fortunate to be able to make it work, but we barely can afford. I can't imagine what parents do that make even 5k less per year. It's amazing to me that there are no options in this area if you are not poverty level or have special needs child.
- Jade she is 4 and she is been taught at and has never been in school but can identify colors and shapes animals can say ABC's may not be able to identify them they know some of them very good language stutters when he gets excited
- Just create more quality Pre-K programs, which is the goal of this survey, so All Durham residence can benefit from these programs.
- Kindergarten readiness for more students is needed in this area. As someone who has worked with preschool (3-5) and K-5 students in Durham Public Schools, I can attest that the students who were able to attend preschool through Head Start and Title 1 Pre-K programs are more kindergarten ready than their "higher income"/"lower risk" peers. The cost of daycare and private preschool programs already forces many educated parents to (1)stay home rather than working, and (2) to forgo preschool altogether due to cost. The kindergarten curriculum is already too advanced for typically developing 5-year olds, and the immersion of 3-5 year olds in structured preschool classrooms allows them to be more successful in kindergarten. The lack of accessible preschool accross borderline-low and middle class families is increasing retention rates and lowering students' perception of school and their own academic capabilities from a young age.
- La educación de nuestros hijos es esencial para nuestro futuro. Una educación buena con recursos y apoyo sin discrimination entre distritos.
- La verdad estan muy buenos los programas para niños menores de 5 años. En lo personal me doy cuenta cuanto los niños aprenden y creo que eso es muy bueno para ellos en su desarrollo.. Gracias por estos servicios..
- Less talk, more action (I'm not expecting anything will be done)
- Lots of outdoor time and play based learning No desks, no worksheets Books on loan for kids to read with parents at home Qualified teachers paid a living wage
- Make it a priority!
- Make it available for all pre-K kids, not just a lottery.
- Make it happen!
- Make it happen.
- Make part time options available
- Make sure not to focus too much on academics. These kids are so young. They mainly need nurturing and socializing, and the chance to explore. Focus on a warm environment that lets them play/learn, not on how fast they recite their abc's.
- Making sure ALL of our children are prepared for school should be a priority. It's really unfortunate that right now there are only 2 schools with PreK programs and both have priority zones that are mostly wealthy and white, thus effectively being discriminatory.
- Making sure the kids have quality staffing.
- Many currently offered services are fragmented and hard to learn about, even when residents do qualify for them. I would love to see community-funded Durham PreK be easy to find out about, easy to apply for, and linked to additional information and services for families with children in the relevant age range.
- Me gustaría tuvieran programas de antes y después de la escuela
- Minimize negative impacts on existing childcare. Try not to contribute to a reduction in childcare slots for infants and toddlers, cause additional staff turnover at existing centers, etc.
- Montessori please!
- More and more in today's society, you are seeing both parents working outside the home during the "first shift," the normal business hours of 8am-5pm. With their toddler-aged to pre-k aged children it would be of interest, even importance, that we have more of a statewide pre-k program established to provide our 4-year-old children with the educational foundation needed to prepare them for kindergarten and the rest of their education.
- More consideration in getting vouchers for the children; not look only at the income, should take in consideration the rest of the bills.
- Most of my salary went to preschool and aftercare but it was worth it for the quality of care. I feel badly for those who don't have the option for quality care for their kids as it's way cheaper to pay for good preschools, childcare and school's than jails.

- Most of the funding for early childcare are based on low income families and those that aren't working. There aren't any programs for the working families that can't afford the cost of child care. hopefully this program would not be more beneficial to those that aren't work and low income before those that are working and struggling to pay for child care, because they already have prior over head start, early head start, and other programs.
- My 4 year old daughter is currently in NC PreK program and we love it. We have seen a major improvement in her speech and overall confidence. I truly believe that the PreK program has set her up for a lifetime of not only success but a love of learning. She can't wait to go to school everyday and never wants to leave.
- My 5 year old son is in Pre-K at George Watts Elementary Montessori Magnet School. We feel incredibly privileged to have the opportunity for him to start elementary school at age 4 and want all Durham children to have high quality early childhood education.
- My 5 yo is currently in a half-day preschool at Trinity Ave Weekday School, then the rest of the day with grandma (who has the 2 yo all day long). He will be in kindergarten next year. The 2 yo will be either at Trinity Ave Weekday School and then receiving DPS services (for developmental delays) or all day at DPS (we are still waiting to be evaluated). We love Trinity Ave Weekday School, but if something was comparable provided by the county for free or less money, that would be ideal.
- My child has had access to an excellent early education program since 5 months of age. But the lack of diversity-culturally, linguistically, racially and socioeconomically - in her preschool is a concern for me. I'd love to have somewhere to send her that was both representative of the Durham community AND high quality. So I am excited to hear about this study and would love to do anything I can to be helpful
- My child is already 4 and set in a good place that I would not move him. If a good quality community pre-K were available for him earlier I would use it. I am a member of a popular group in Durham and conversations about the need for pre-k education in Durham is often a point of conversation. I would not mind paying more taxes to make sure this is available to families who need it.
- My children are beyond pre-k now but went to EC pre-k through DPS. This was invaluable for our family. Quality preschool needs to expand to more kids with low to moderate incomes as well as a exceptional children. They need to be integrated as much as possible.
- My children have attended a half-day preK and have benefitted tremendously. They are much better prepared for school. I highly recommend planning for more PreK services for the community.
- My family never qualifies for any income-based need. However, due to all of our living, car, childcare, and household expenses, we are unable to afford childcare daycare/pre-k costs in Durham.
- My husband and I came to the States 5 months ago and my husband applied for a work permit which didnt result yet and because he is not an employee or a student we cant get any help for preschool. This is preventing him for searching jobs and not changing our situation so the precondition to either be student or employed should be re-structured in transitionary people like us.
- My son is in a bilingual home day care with 5 kids total. He's 2.5 and I plan to keep him there until he goes to kindergarten.
- My son is speach delayed and went through the current Durham Pre-K program. He learned so much and has advanced so well. I don't think he would be where he is today without it.
- Need options outside thepublic schools
- No authorized guns on campus
- no, I don't mind paying for daycare because my son gets the best care there and I really trust his teachers- it would make me nervous getting "free or community-funded" daycare
- Non religious is essential. Diverse, accepting, safe and fun - especially for kids who have special needs.
- None keep doing a good job
- Not really but to just say thanks to you people for the good work.
- NOTE: My older child didn't attend preschool. That was not an option on the survey. Finding and being able to afford quality early childhood education in Durham is a real challenge. I would support efforts to institute a universal community-funded preK in Durham BUT I would want it to be developmentally appropriate (not pushing academics at too young an age).
- Now is the time for universal pre-K
- On paper I make a lot of money. But as a single mother of 3 and child support comes when they want too. It's hard to qualify for programs
- One of my 3-year-old twins has Down syndrome and attends pre-k through DPS. The twins turn 4 three weeks after the cutoff so the other twin does not qualify for \*another\* year. In other words, they'll be in separate places for two years (this year and next year). As a single working mom (and DPS teacher), having them in the same school this year

would've been tremendously helpful, so I think DPS should consider having a cutoff window instead of a specific cutoff date.

- Option to "test in" early if miss age deadline by couple months.
- Options regarding Pre-K should be made widely available to families with young children, especially through hospitals, pediatrician offices, Durham Connects and at other municipal locations. I know almost nothing about my options locally. Also, I work full time and need to put my child in full-time daycare, so I'm pretty sure there's no way I could arrange for my child to go to Pre-K. If there are other options currently, I don't know what they are.
- outreach to low wealth communities so they were aware of the options
- Parents income should not be a factor when they are still struggling to make ends meet due to the increasing cost to live in Durham.
- Parents need agency, not just programs. It is good to develop programs to meet the immediate needs of working parents for childcare. However, we should never confuse this with meeting the even more important needs that parents have for just wages, adequate income, and affordable housing that would enable them to take an active role in caring for and educating their own children.
- Paying teachers the same as K-12 teachers is essential given the research showing how important early education is. Also important to have play based programs focused on language development and prioritizing non-cognitive skills vs. pushing academics that can come later.
- People shouldn't have to wait years and find many other programs to apply for & also be on yet another waiting list waiting before there is even funding available. And then once you do finally get called you have to go through such a process and wait yet again before you hear anything back.
- Perhaps you could offer parent-involvement or a cooperative structure in exchange for reduced rates to encourage participation from families of all socioeconomic status. Our family cannot afford full-time preschool but would like our child to attend and could offer time substitute teaching or volunteering in other ways.
- Please allow some people who are not low income into the Pre-K programs.
- Please be sure to include mindfulness conflict resolution training as part of the preK program.
- Please consider homeless prevention methods for single moms like myself whom need childcare assistance in order to be self sufficient.
- Please consider offering affordable services to all first-time parents, regardless of income, this will ensure access and good quality education. This will be most helpful to middle-class income earners like myself. Otherwise it will be economically (and often racially) segregated. The wealthy can pay high fees for private education easily and lower income families get subsidies. Those of us in the middle are willing to pay but we can also use some help. Durham is a multicultural city and we have a chance to give all our children a fair chance early in life. We all need to invest in their wellbeing.
- Please consider that many households are single parent or two working parent households and before or after care options are needed for those families to participate in preK
- Please consider the needs of the poorest families first before those of us (like me) who have more resources. I want my money going to help the neediest families in Durham.
- Please consider this!
- Please do this. There is such disparity in where children are in kindergarden depending on whether or not they are able to access high quality pre-school and pre-k programs. It is MARKED in my daughters class and I'm worried that these kids will never catch up. Please please take this step to make sure that all children have access to high quality preschool and preK. It will make a huge difference.
- Please dont make it a lottery like everything else is..
- Please fund this! Our community desperately needs more PreK programs that are accessible to everyone.
- PLEASE get universal Pre-K in Durham. The earlier society is immersed in a learning environment, the better it will be for that person to interact with others and get along at an early age.
- Please keep this program going. It is vital to struggling families and daycare is horribly expensive and not affordable. Parents have to result to desperate measures to have their children watched during the day, especially if you work 10 hours days (when you include traffic to and from home) to have your children cared for properly.
- Please look to get the input and advice from local preschools that have already had a great success rate working with early childhood education. And see where the demand is. There are hundreds of folks who get turned away every year from the public Montessori over at Watts. More programs with this focus are needed. And better training for all public Montessori programs so that these programs are Montessori in practice, not only in materials and in name. There are also fantastic Reggio-inspired programs that can help mold these programs. It is just essential that we don't lose the

fantastic opportunity to give quality care to these young ones. If we can do it, it will make all the difference to our community, to each child and family, and ultimately to the world.

- Please make it happen! We make a pretty decent living but still we cannot afford private pre-school.
- Please make it happen.
- Please make it open for people. We really need these programs for these kids.
- Please make outside time, unstructured play, and access to books (with good stories) a priority. As it is, these things only seem available to those who make significantly more \$.
- Please please please do this! A universal program would be great! Early intervention, better results. One thing to think about is how to align the curricula from Pre-K to Kindergarten, so that there isn't duplication. Duplication of content may contribute to "fade out" effects of Pre-K programs. What is likely actually happening is a lack of differentiation in lesson plans within classrooms in Kindergarten to accelerate kids that have gone through Pre-K. Kids in targeted Pre-K programs are more likely to end up in schools with teachers that are less credentialed and have less experience, too.
- Please read previous comments.
- Please understand that these are formative years for children. They need lots of love, support, and a safe place to be.
- Please use multiple streams of notification, sometimes posting in the newspaper isn't enough. Use as many forms of notice as possible.
- Please use the data out there to design your curriculum. Having kids do more memorization and desk work (worksheets, etc) at this age doesn't help them long-term. Studies have shown that having children involved in structured play and exploration coupled with teaching them the SKILLS required to succeed long-term - how to handle failure, how to struggle, how to deal with other people, how to handle their own anger and frustration and anxiety, how to think creatively and critically - is much more effective than trying to teach them just to read at that age. Basically, please PLEASE teach growth mindset (vs. fixed mindset, which is what most of my students come to me with in college). You can do better at anything, but it takes hard work. You're not "smart" or "dumb" - you may be more talented at specific things, but you can get better at anything if you work at it. As a college professor, this is the messaging that the students I have now didn't get, and it's way harder to teach at this age. They're all incredibly anxious because they've been taught that they have to be perfect.
- Pls pls do this! Preschools r too expensive as they r!
- Pre K is free everywhere but here. When I was growing up in Maryland it was free. This is the only place charging 4 year olds for education. It is a struggle to find good childcare that is affordable for the first 3 years. Pre k should be a part of every elementary school anyway. Stop being greedy!! Let the kids learn and stop making families suffer and have to choose between working and taking care of bills and staying home with a child that could be in Pre k risking everything. This is sickening. There are new court houses and jails and housing developments that I wont get started on but you all cant add pre k to elementary schools. Get real
- Pre K is important in creating equality in our communities. Please make it a priority.
- Pre K should be available at all home base schools. But why should that matter anyway when the majority of Durham schools don't even have 3 stars. Hell we pay \$200,000 for our home and our middle school and high school in our zones don't even have a star. Sad.
- Pre-K experience has been proven to give kids a much better start to elementary school and it should be provided to all families.
- Pre-K is a wonderful investment in your child's future, but cannot be half day only. Most children go to preschool for full day, as their parents work. If my child was not in full day preschool, I would not be able to pick her up and transport to another center after Pre-K is over.
- Pre-K is very important. While my twins are in a church-based half-day preschool now and will likely remain there through age 4, I understand that many do not have the resources to send their children to a private preschool and thus, public reduced-cost options should be available.
- PreK needs to be PLAY BASED
- Pre-K program should not just be eligible for children who are behind. Programs such as these should be readily available for children who show a want to learn and have an established knowledge before pre-k. More programs should be available for parents who want to further their career or education
- PreK programs have been proven to provide exponentially more benefits both for the child and for society in general than the amount they cost to provide.
- Pre-k should start at 3. Having affordable, full-day options is critical.
- Preschool is a vital building block when preparing our children for the rigorous curriculum standardized in our public schools. It must quickly become a priority to begin educating our children as early as possible in order to get these basic

building blocks in place for reading, math, and social skills. Funding it through public funds makes it accessible and equitable for all our children.

- preschool is essential for children's future success
- Preschool programs are absurdly expensive. Although we can afford it, there are many who can't. I am excited and proud that Durham is considering such a forward thinking option, even though it will soon no longer affect me.
- Program is desperately needed to help Durham residents who are trying to work and get back on their feet. I know single mothers who are not able to work because they don't have childcare. This would also help them contribute to Durham's economy.
- Programs like this will allow many families to dig themselves out of poverty, either by allowing both parents to work, or one of them to go back to school to get a degree which will make them more hireable. Often parents have to choose between work or school and if they can afford daycare/preschool. Durham families need this option.
- Public institutions design programs according to the transition from pre-K to life.
- Put families first. Currently a part of a great head start program that is great for families.
- Quality childcare is expensive. I am blessed enough to live in a dual income household that can afford to send our children to top notch daycare and preschool programs. However, everyone is not that fortunate and yet we still expect all of our children to perform the same. How can we expect results if we aren't willing to put in the work?
- Quality early childhood education is such an indicator of achievement and success later in life, and I think we need to give all of our children the best tools possible for success.
- Quality education for ALL children should be a priority.
- QUE GRACIAS POR HACER ESTAS ENCUESTAS PARA HAZI PODERE BRINDAR INFORMACION DE COMO UNO ESPERA QUE SEA LA ESCULA PARA NUESTROS HIJOS Y ESTEN EN UN AMBIENTE SEGUROS
- Remove the enrollment caps from the Montessori pre k programs. They can never be overcrowded with how admission is structured. Then model all of your pre k programs after the dps montessori pre-K and whitted.
- Security education.
- See comments about preschool environment/things that are important to have in place.
- Should be free and universal with super low student teacher ratio, super high quality, part day
- Should encompass a plan to elevate those in our community with fewer resources, so any child is able to access this opportunity. Curriculum should respect and include perspectives from a variety of cultures and backgrounds.
- Si todos en la comunidad deseamos servicios de calidad de educacion preescolar o a cualquier nivel. Seria bueno que se publicara un presupuesto publico de cuanto sera el presupuesto total para que la comunidad este al tanto que es el precio para que este servicio sea de calidad y que funcione! Asi estamos dando transparencia hacia a donde van losinpuestos que pagan los recidentes.
- Something has got to be done to increase/improve the reputation of public schools, particularly grade schools, in Durham County.
- Sometimes families incomes change due to life changing events or unforeseen circumstances. Quality education shouldn't have to change based on income.
- Spanish immersion program
- Stop funding with the funding when it comes to educating our students. Durham should be different or set apart on ethical reasoning on not training human beings on being productive and successful.
- Stop having families on waiting list and not respond or keep informed
- Taking into account a parents inability to "look for work" and/or reasons for being unemployed. Many programs are not available to families solely because the parent is not working. For this train the system is flawed and counterproductive. How are families applying for assistance supposed to have the time needed to find and accept employment if the program disqualifies them due to unemployment and/or the inability to look for work?
- Taxes are already high. Government employees are already paid \$15/hr with paid family leave. Paying for community childcare will be another costly endeavor. With shitty public school options people like us will move if we now have to start paying for other people's childcare - our own expenses are already taxing, we would never qualify for this benefit so it's of no benefit to my family. I get that it's an endeavor to trickle down into better performance in the existing public school system to make poor students more prepared but it would never actually work to the extent that would merit the additional costs. The costs would be astronomical and the social/behavioral issues will continue because 1 year of partial childcare isn't going to fix all the demographically problems those students face in their academic careers. To expect my family to pay for such a service via tax dollars for other families is maddening. I don't get paid family leave - I can't believe the gov employees do, hardly any industry offers that as it is and already city jobs are prized for their retirement and healthcare benefits. Talk about pig fat.

- Teacher options Consideration of financial obligations and not just income (student loans, medical debt, etc.)
- Teachers are what make preschools great. I hope that paying the teachers well to recruit the best is a focus of this initiative. I personally love Montessori and would love see a free Montessori option for Durham residents.
- Thank you
- Thank you for everything you do!
- Thank you for supporting public school education.
- Thank you for taking on this important work. As an early childhood educator and mom I see the value of community-funded PreK. My dream is that PreK would be filled with play, singing, art-making, block building, friendship making and lots and lots of love and JOY for all children. My fear is that any measures created to assess quality will drive instruction toward what is easily measurable (simple academic skills) vs what is important (collaboration, dispositions for learning, resilience, creativity). Durham, I know we can do PreK in the most amazing way and set an example for the state and the country! Thank you ALL for your hard work!
- Thank you for the opportunity to comment further, I do feel it's important to provide a pre-k program that is solid in family support and education for everyone. In our experience we have benefited greatly from early childhood education and our girl is excelling due to this. With two working parents, it is essential that we have services to take care of our child during the day, and to prepare her for kindergarten. At 800 to \$1,000 a month for KinderCare, I can only imagine what other families in different situations are facing. My assumption is those children enter kindergarten less prepared. I would gladly pay more than \$100 a month for provided Pre-K services for everyone. Thank you! And one point of advice for you on your survey, the image you posted isn't a link, so you have to type it in directly which could create an issue for those who can't do that, also it's going to lower your response rates. If you're really looking for response from the general public you should make it easier.
- The benefits of pre-K programs are clear and should be available to ALL Durham County children, not just those who are able to afford it, who can afford to live in walk zones for current magnet options, or who luck into one of the few magnet programs available.
- The child care providers should be well trained, and well paid, in order to reduce turnover and also just because this is an important job for our society and these teachers should be respected and valued.
- The children are our future and if we are not invested in them and preparing them for K, how will they succeed. The programs are not accessible to working class families. You have to not work in order for your child to access programs.
- The county should make preschool for all four year olds. More pre k classrooms in our elementary schools. Transportation should be provided like school buses. There are other counties in nc that provides transportation buses for preschool kids.
- The current options are too limited. You can't get into a Montessori Magnet unless you can afford to live in a walk zone and Whitted only covers one year. Whitted is a wonderful school, and I would love to see more options like it, however, it doesn't solve the problem of getting into Kindergarten somewhere. We are zoned to a failing school, and had to make the choice this year to pay tuition somewhere for PK so that we have a K option to fall back on if Magnets and transfers don't work next year. The school system is a mess. We are grateful to be able to stretch and make private school work for our family in the short term, but the majority of folks out there don't have that luxury. I'm glad to see DPS taking this on, but we need to also be able to provide quality schooling after PreK.
- The DPS elementary schools with PreK options are so overwhelmingly popular in the magnet lottery. I'm pleased to see that Durham is considering taking steps to fill this community need. We've been so happy with our daycare/preschool, but the monthly tuition payments monopolize our take-home pay, and we are in a relatively comfortable position financially, and our tuition is not nearly as high as other programs in the area. This is an area that needs critical attention. Durham kids' education is too important to neglect.
- The early education intervention for our children is important. When there is early education the children have a higher rate of success in their schooling. Please use our tax dollars to provide sound early education classes for our children.
- The impact on child that had access to a prekindergarten program compared to a child who did not is tremendously important. The child enters the school system with a different mindset and eager to learn the new big thing. A child that didn't attend a preschool program prior to Kindergarten has more challenges and has to be able to catch up with his/her peers which can become overwhelming for the child.
- The more funding that we give to the education of Durham Children the better off we will be as a community and as a society.
- The options for Durham PreK are beyond disappointing. It is hard to believe in a system this size that each school does not have seats for students of diverse backgrounds. If you are not living in a problem area you can forget your child have this opportunity in Durham county without going 15 - 20 miles a day.

- the PreK application process is hard to understand and confusing. There is a lot of misinformation out in the community about how to apply, where to apply, when to apply and who can qualify. I would never have known about applying for Prek if a family member didn't work in child care. Also, having it be only 8:30-3:30 of a school day is hard, can you make sure there is before-school and after-school care for people who work a 9-5?
- The program should be funded constantly. It is ridiculous that funds aren't available when working parents need after school care for school age children
- The research keeps coming out that shows a solid preschool experience sets the stage for long term future success. Especially in Durham where the socioeconomic disparity continues to widen, I would think providing the option of a well-rounded preschool program to all would be seen as investment not just in the young kids who most directly benefit, but for all of us who will benefit from the long-term effects of a better educated, better performing, and more successful generation.
- The research seems to show that "soft" social skills are the most important at this age, so I hope the program would focus on those skills, not worksheets and just academics.
- The rules of eligibility should be set in stone and final, but not too critiqued to where single parents have to work over part-time hours. The rate of full time jobs has decreasead, especially for families with out a higher educational degree. This program, should be a stepping stone, so that we can function on our own in the parenting world. Having to stretch my self and my time for more hours at work, is depressing, when neither of the two is spent nurturing my child. I love that this program is helping me put my baby in daycare, but it is extremely demanding of money, when I thought that the objection was to help with my child.
- The school can share photo or video of children's daily experience with parents.
- The studies are conclusive and bountiful. Early preschool and funding education supports society at large in many ways.
- The whole pre-K program in Durham is completely confusing. I've received information to my email account about pre-K programs but it is not clear if they are available for students based on income.
- There is a huge difference in cost of preschools. We found some in Durham that cost most than 3K a month; that is not possible for the average family. We also found other programs that were cheaper but lacked a focus on education. We have a child attending preschool through the Durham County Public School System (Watts). It felt like we had to move Heaven and Earth to get her placed there. After she was accepted and we complete the paperwork, we were told that we had to pay for the school. There was no information on the application packet or any of the paperwork about payment for school. We were told in the letter that cost would be connected to the size of your family and income; however, there were no where on the application to put this information. We don't mind paying for school for our child; however, transparency up front would be very helpful. We pay over \$300/month for our child and will get asked to participate in all of the fundraisers, snacks, school supplies, classroom donations, scholarships for other students and everything else all of the other elementary student families are asked to participate in. I think these program was very helpful just lack transparency at the beginning.
- There is ample evidence that quality preK improves both kindergarten readiness and long-term academic, economic and social outcomes for children who receive it, but parents are often forced to settle for poor programs because quality ones are beyond their reach economically (we struggled to pay for preschool for our children and could not afford to have more than one of our three children in preschool at a time). Community preK would benefit the entire community. I hope that a community-funded program would be available to all members of the community so that high-quality early education is an option for everyone.
- There is no reason I should have to wait for a child with special needs to get approved before my children if I come in to sign my children up first. First come first served. I never got to send my 7 year old to preschool or daycare because of the waitlist and prices and now he struggles in school because of it. These kids are getting a better opportunity than my child and its not fair. He is just as important as any special needs child.
- There is substantial research to support the long term benefits of preK programs. I would love to see Durham make use of evidence based guidance for planning and implementing effective preK for all children.
- There just is a very huge need for more daycares in the area.
- There should be more spaces available based on the county's population and need.
- There's a need for pre-k programs because they are beneficial for the children and families with low income.
- Theres just never enough funding. The waitlist are terribly long and discouraging to people who really need help.
- These programs should be open to ALL Durham residents regardless of income.
- They should consider the working parents and give them quality day care education also, regardless of their income. Income should not be a criteria to receive quality education and other services from the government.
- Think about permanent training to teachers. Create preventive programs for children who might be in a house hold with domestic violence or neglected parenting problems to help those families to get a better future

- This is a challenge, but it is important that programs be of high-quality and affordable for all in order to make a true difference in the community.
- This is a fantastic idea and so necessary! Preschool should NOT cost as much as college education
- This is a lovely idea, very considerate
- This is a novel approach to early childhood education. Perks as I see are leveling the playing field when it comes to kindergarten entry in reading and math. This would also allow working parents to return earlier.
- This is a wonderful idea!
- This is an essential program for our community. Research has shown that public pre-k makes an impact on the overall educational trajectory of students. Many students of various income levels do not have access to preschool programs in their community.
- This is an increasingly essential component to ensuring the community is attractive and sustainable.
- This is highly important to set children up for success. More affordable options are essential to opening access.
- This is so important. I think that affordable PreK will really help Durham all around. Thank you for working on this key issue.
- This is something really needed and will help parents who have to pay multiple tuition for childcare with multiple children under the age of 4. It will help stimulate the economy because with the money saved with childcare, parents can afford to buy more food, clothes and/or participate in extracurricular activities.
- This is super important to help Durham address racial inequity. All kids having access to free (or a sliding scale) preschool would mean kids are starting out closer to the same place.
- This PreK program is important for current residents and also future residents that are considering moving to Durham.
- This Program is \*ESSENTIAL\* to help children make the transition from daycare to actual school. Children would get a feel of the daily life in a school environment. In turn, this helps alleviate some pressure on school teachers who have to give extreme care to children who are not ready to deal with challenges of the school environment. Less time spent dealing with the whole class, more 1 on 1 time with children who need more attention. Especially when the program, the child ratio will still be the same, just more time learning and building in group settings. As opposed to most daycare facilities, children play by themselves. More "classroom/group" participation would be primary focus for the PreK-program.
- This should be a priority for the county. It will help keep Durham diverse, especially if fees are based on a sliding scale.
- This would help with preparation for Kindergarten. Which I think will mold them into successful adults. That age is very critical. The brain is still believed to be like a sponge. So why not have a curriculum that would either help or improve a child's thought process.
- To not have a waiting list and just allow kids to come that qualify.
- Todos los programas Pre K en Durham deben ser por loteria universal. No deben existir zonas prioritarias o walking zones para ellos, como existen para Watts and Morehead Pre K.
- Transportation is a must. And facilities and care-givers aware of allergies and how to properly handle emergencies. Also, nut free facility is a must.
- Transportation is very important
- Try to have affordable pre schools because as parents we need to work and if we can't afford daycare we and our children we will suffer..
- Understanding plans for students with behavioral IEPs should be in class with teachers experienced in EC
- Universal pre k is a must for Durham.
- Universal PreK would be a huge boost to home values and the overall attractiveness of Durham
- Universal pre-k, and full-day, quality, affordable daycare are essential to both family thriving and a strong, attractive labor market.
- Vaccinations required please!
- Voluntary, universal pre-k could potentially be much more inclusive than what we have right now and potentially improve long-term outcomes for Durham residents as long as we do not let these settings become overly standardized, regimented or "academic" (in the rote, direct instruction sense)... they have to stay play-based and centered on family and children's interests and strengths (not using deficits-based models) or we might risk doing damage to children's future interest in and love of learning. I think we really need to have more careful and detailed conversations about curriculum development across our Durham Pre-K settings along with our expansion (increasing both quality and access). One way to do this might be to facilitate the creation of interagency and/or community-based professional learning communities and support our pre-K educators in increasing our personal and professional capacities to be able to better serve children, families and Durham and to continue to be passionate and involved in our teaching and

learning. Durham early childhood educators might also benefit from learning how to better articulate and demonstrate to the community the import of what we do (including both why and how). If we are asking for the community to financially support this expansion over the long-term, it would be helpful to offer more specifics about what high-quality Pre-K looks like and what the outcomes can be... we should make our learning and teaching viable to Durham. (Potential art installation?)

- Waiting list update and diversity for all Durham county residents
- we all can't afford rent and childcare at the same time and durham is an expensive place to live, just think of all the people in the community not just the ones financially built. All children should have a chance to rise above.
- We are VERY interested in publicly funded, publicly provided quality education for our child. As we monitor her for possible therapeutic services, it is even more essential that we have a thriving and healthy school system into which she can integrate.
- We can probably afford a private program, but I think early education is so important and Durham should strive to provide all children in the county with quality preschool regardless of their parents' incomes.
- We need enough spaces, this shouldn't be a lottery to get your children in a safe any educational spot.
- We need more location options
- We need this so badly. Our toddler is in daycare 3 days a week, and we spend a third of our family income on her daycare cost. School is great for her, but we're really struggling financially.
- We need to support Durham's neediest residents, who are getting left behind, and frequently pushed out of their neighborhoods, as the city continues to attract more residents. It's great that we're becoming a hub for tech, start ups, and the arts, but we can't leave behind the city's neediest residents. I'm a staff member at Duke and I find preschool expensive--I can't imagine how those living at poverty are able to prepare their children for kindergarten with fewer resources.
- We pay 2230 per month to have two kids in daycare. I'm very interested in moving our older child (not 5 until Sept) into a public school based pre k program near our home that can work with a working parent schedule. I haven't found one.
- What are you waiting for? This is essential to our community and economy
- When my children were younger, they were in half day preschool since that was the most I could afford. I tried enrolling in head start but was put on the waitlist. Community subsidized preschool would do a world of service to all of us but especially single parent households. It would have provided time to look for and secure a full time job to better support my family.
- When my kids were of the age when they could qualify for the two free pre-K programs, I thought it was highly unfair that these programs weren't offered to everyone, but only ones in that zoned area or got in through the lottery.
- When my oldest child started kindergarten in public school a few years ago, I think close to half the school year was spent helping kids who hadn't had formal pre-school exposure to catch up (e.g. learn to count, learn ABC's, learn to sit in a group at circle time, etc). While I don't feel this harmed my child in any way, I do think it is a good example of how the lack of universal Pre-K can hold back some of the more vulnerable members of our community. Further, I often think about how lack of affordable childcare in general holds back working parents, especially female headed households. Universal Pre-K also helps such households from a practical, childcare standpoint. Durham needs this!
- Where we are from, the elementary school has a Pre-K program for 4 year old. The community pays in taxes for it. They have morning Pre-K and afternoon Pre-K to accommodate all of the 4 year olds in the community.
- Wholesome nutritional meals.
- Would like a better understanding bc I still haven't heard back from you guys
- Would love if there were more options for Montessori based teaching
- Yea, let the people who go out & make these babies pay for their own pre-school programs & childcare.
- Yes - it's important! there are too many assessments and things that require a child to be OVERLY prepared for Kindergarten to stay afloat. Northern states provide PRE-K free now so there is clearly validity in the fact that the need for education is starting younger now in order for children to be prepared and reach the benchmarks that are required
- Yes there should be feild trips Idavis283@gmail.com
- Yes, I fine it ironic that I was sent this survey. Yes, I've applied for government assistance for my child's daycare cost. I was denied. Instead, (most, not all) people who are not honest are receiving all the funding. I am a hardworker that is struggling, because of the expensive cost of daycare. The system is backwards. I wouldn't be able to use a Durham County Community funded Pre-K... WHY??? Because I and my child would not be accepted. Instead, people who aren't citizens, mothers who continue to have babies are the ones given a free ride. I don't want a free ride, just some help.
- You would need bus service. Or hold the pre k in existing elementary schools, using their busses