

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ENSURE EQUITABLE INVESTMENT, FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY, AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE BOSTON PRE-K PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,** Access to high-quality early childhood education is widely recognized as one of the most effective strategies for improving long-term academic outcomes, supporting working families, and narrowing opportunity gaps before children enter kindergarten; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Over the past decade the City of Boston and Boston Public Schools have expanded early childhood education opportunities through a mixed-delivery model that includes district classrooms, community-based organizations, and family child care providers; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City has recently consolidated and rebranded these efforts under the Boston Pre-K initiative and established a dedicated Office of Early Childhood to coordinate strategy, partnerships, and program expansion across the city; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston's early childhood system currently serves thousands of three- and four-year-old children across a variety of program settings and continues to grow through investments in both public school classrooms and community-based providers; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The continued expansion of Pre-K programming raises important questions regarding equitable access across neighborhoods, the availability of seats for three- and four-year-olds, and the alignment of early childhood programs with long-term enrollment and facilities planning; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Fiscal Year 2027 budget and the district's transition to the Reimagine School Funding model introduce new approaches to funding classroom staffing and early education services that merit ongoing review and public transparency; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to evaluate the progress and implementation of the City of Boston's Pre-K expansion and how it varies by neighborhood, including capacity growth and seat availability, fiscal sustainability, workforce development and parity, academic outcomes, inclusion and special education services, and capital investments in early childhood facilities, and that representatives from relevant City departments, Boston Public Schools, and community-based providers be invited to testify.