

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA,
DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, PEPÉN,
SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE EXPANSION OF BOSTON PRE-K SEATS AND THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF CITY-FUNDED SEATS ACROSS ALL NEIGHBORHOODS

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is committed to ensuring that every child has access to high-quality early education, recognizing its critical role in a child's development and long-term success; and

WHEREAS, Boston Pre-K (formerly known as Universal Pre-K or UPK) is a high-quality, public pre-kindergarten program funded and administered by Boston Public Schools (BPS), offering diverse options for children aged 3 and 4 across various settings, including BPS schools, community-based organizations, independent schools, and family child care providers; and

WHEREAS, The program's rebranding to Boston Pre-K in 2024 reflects the city's ongoing commitment to providing accessible early childhood education to all eligible children; and

WHEREAS, A 2023 report by the Boston Opportunity Agenda highlighted persistent gaps in access to quality, affordable early education and care in Boston, noting significant disparities in seat availability across neighborhoods, particularly for infants and toddlers; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, the City announced a \$15 million investment to establish the "Quality Pre-K Fund," aiming to guarantee equitable access to free, high-quality pre-kindergarten for all four-year-olds within five years, emphasizing the importance of equitable distribution of resources; and

WHEREAS, Childcare providers across various neighborhoods have expressed a desire to expand city-funded seats but require clarity on the selection process and assurance of equitable distribution; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative to assess and ensure that the allocation of Boston Pre-K seats is conducted transparently and equitably, addressing the diverse needs of families throughout Boston's neighborhoods;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine the current processes employed by the Mayor's Office of Early Childhood and Boston Public Schools in selecting and distributing city-funded Boston Pre-K seats, with the objectives of:

1. Understanding the criteria and methodology used to allocate Boston Pre-K seats across different neighborhoods;
2. Evaluating the equity of the current distribution to ensure all communities have fair access to high-quality early education opportunities;
3. Identifying barriers faced by childcare providers in expanding city-funded seats and exploring solutions to support their efforts;
4. Gathering input from stakeholders, including childcare providers, parents, and community organizations, to inform policy recommendations; and
5. Developing strategies to enhance transparency, equity, and effectiveness in the expansion of Boston Pre-K seats citywide.

Filed on: April 2, 2025