

RESOLUTION _____

**A Resolution Creating The Denver Public Schools Task Force
On Early Education and School Readiness**

WHEREAS, DPS is committed to:

- Setting high expectations for students, parents, teachers, principals, and all other staff of DPS and the community it serves;
- Improving the performance of all students; and
- Closing the gap between better and poorer performing students; and

WHEREAS, quality early childhood care and education has proven to be effective in raising achievement and closing the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, state-of-the-art brain research provides strong and incontrovertible evidence that a child's interactions and experiences in the first few years of life have a profound and lasting impact on social, emotional, intellectual and language development; and

WHEREAS, national and district research has demonstrated that children who have quality pre-kindergarten education and care experiences have greater later school success, fewer grade retentions, fewer referrals to special education and are less likely to drop out of school; and

WHEREAS, children of poverty are less likely to have quality pre-kindergarten experiences, thus contributing to the achievement gap between children of higher and lower income families; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Denver have demonstrated their support for early education through designating mill levy dollars for full-day kindergarten and expansion of preschool programs; and

WHEREAS, schools have a vested interest in collaborating with the community to establish quality standards and experiences for young children birth to four that will help them attain the skills for school success; and

WHEREAS, the City of Denver and Denver Public Schools have a history of program collaboration through work of the Denver Public Schools/City of Denver Joint Council on Early Childhood Care and Education; and

WHEREAS, the district desires to take additional steps in collaboration with the City and others to extend and improve early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, Denver's Mayor Hickenlooper has established The Mayor's Leadership Team on Early Childhood Education and The Mayor's Early Childhood Education Commission to identify priorities for early education for the City as a whole and resources for their implementation; and

WHEREAS, the district wishes, in this context, to more clearly define its role in pre-kindergarten education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a Task Force on Early Education and School Readiness be established to define a vision and recommend effective policies and partnerships to guide DPS in its efforts to promote school readiness for all Denver children.