



**DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Thursday, October 22, 2009

900 Grant Street

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

**BOARD OF EDUCATION LUNCHEON AGENDA**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Room

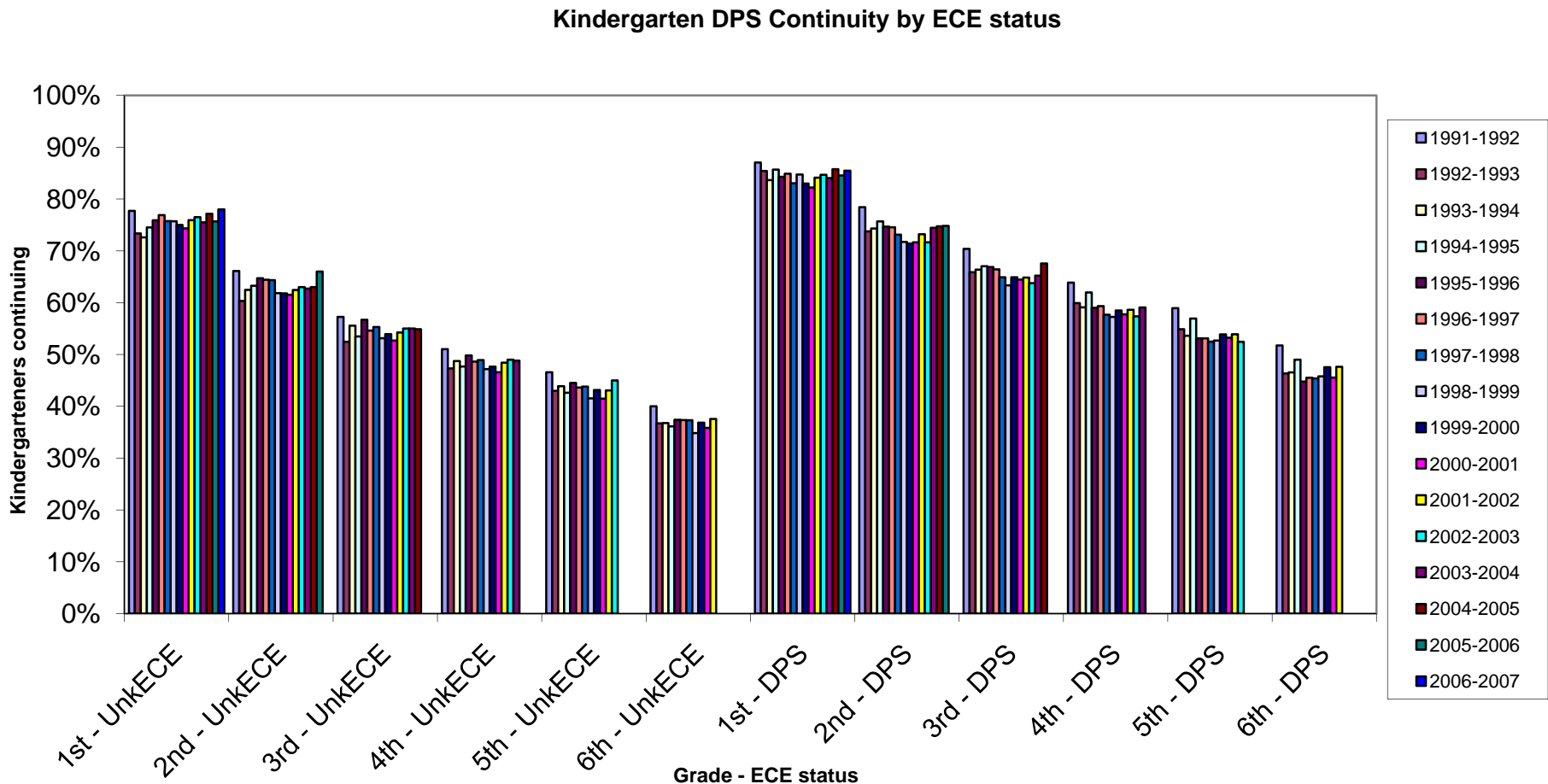
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. ***Preschool & Kindergarten Report:***  
***-Center for Early Education***  
***-Proposed Preschool & Kindergarten Tuition Changes***
- 12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. ***Regional Meetings: Update on Progress and Feedback***
- 12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ***November Timeline Discussion***

# Proposed ECE and Kinder Tuition Changes for 2010-11 School Year

Presentation to DPS Board of Education

October 22, 2009

# Likelihood of students staying in DPS, by DPS ECE attendance



- When students who started preschool in DPS in 1991 are compared to students who did not enter DPS until kindergarten, a consistently higher number of those who started in preschool remain in DPS through six grade.

# Center for Early Education (CEE) Overview

- Located at the former site of Knight Fundamental Academy, on the corner of Steele and Exposition.
- CEE opened for 2009-10 school year, the first center of its kind in DPS.
- Serves approximately 140 students from 5 feeder schools – all ECE students except for one Kindergarten class from Cory.
- Cory, Steele, Slavens, Asbury all participating in center.
- Led by Suzanne Rougier, who has extensive experience with early education.
- Other schools have asked to enter the CEE: DPS will assess need and feasibility of adding ECE or Kindergarten classrooms and will work with the principal leaders, instructional superintendents and the school communities to make and communicate those decisions prior to Choice opening.
- Facility has additional capacity (approximately 10-12 rooms) for further expansion.
- DPS intends to operate the center from the present site for the coming year.

# Center for early education



As you may know, this is the first year I have had a child in DPS and the CEE program has far exceeded all of my expectations. I cannot imagine a more positive introduction to elementary school for my son.” – Emily Eikelberner



- The Center for Early Education is located at Steele and Exposition in the facility formerly occupied by Knight Fundamental Academy

# Center for early education



“I think what you are providing for our children is revolutionary for a big city school district, and I think it can be a model for other big city school districts country wide.” – Amy Silvesky, parent



# ECE Funding Overview

- Overall ECE enrollment (3,900 in 2007-08; 4,000 in 2008-09; 4,300 in 2009-10)
- Of these students approximately 500 are 3 year olds, served primarily in half-day programs
- Majority of funding for ECE comes from two sources: Colorado Preschool Program and Denver Preschool Program
- Last year, DPS received \$7 million of DPP funding to support ~3,500 4 year olds (DPS serves approximately 65-70% of the children in DPP and receives the proportionate amount of funding)
- DPP has been discussing cuts of 25% to 50% from the 2008-09 funding level (not the 2009-10 level). This cut would go into effect for the 2010-11 school year. If cuts were distributed equitably across providers, this would mean a cut to roughly \$3.5 to 5.25 million in revenue, or a loss of about \$1.75 to \$3.5 million from last year's levels.

# Kindergarten Funding Overview

- The first half of the Kindergarten day in the state is mandatory and is funded through the per pupil formula used to fund students through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- To provide the second half of the Kindergarten day, DPS relies on a variety of funding sources, including the resources made available by the State of Colorado (School Finance Act - SFA) to expand full-day Kindergarten across the state, the 2003 Mill Levy and general fund money.
- Currently ~6,000 to 6,500 students are being served in full-day in our traditional schools – over 92% of all Kinder students attend full-day.
- The Early Education department receives approximately \$3.6 million in SFA funds (including hold harmless funds) for the second half of the Kindergarten day
- This funding for Kindergarten is already below promised levels and is in jeopardy of further cuts
- This SFA funding constitutes over 25% of the total funding that pays for the second half of the kindergarten day
- This state funding provides the second half of the day in 64 classrooms across the district, allowing DPS to serve close to 1,600 students with this funding alone
- Another 76 half day classes are paid for with funds from the 2003 Mill Levy

# Proposed Tuition Changes

- Principles to adhere to in maintaining programs & considering changes:
  - Protect our most vulnerable and needy students – continue to ensure that we can provide these programs affordably to those who most need them and have limited options.
  - Charge tuition where necessary reflecting the actual cost to run programs less other funding available.
  - Tuition should be based on a sliding scale for those who can afford to pay – consider market rates in establishing tuition.
  - Charge non-Denver residents rates that ensure no city tax dollars are used for those students.
  - Try to offer full-day programs wherever possible, as these positively impact student achievement.
  - Make the tuition categories as clear and straightforward as possible to parents.
- DPS staff believe it is necessary to raise tuition for several reasons:
  - Revenues both in ECE and Kindergarten are likely to be cut; DPS would like to preserve all programs possible (increasing the costs for tuition-based programs makes sense as those programs generate limited CPP & DPP funds).
  - ECE and Kindergarten costs continue to increase, driven partly by increases in teacher salaries.
  - Particularly at the ECE level, DPS is priced very low compared to the market for comparable services (DPS average ECE Qualistar rating is more than 3-stars out of 4 possible)
  - Increases for following year are possible, with the goal of bringing DPS tuition still closer to market rate over time.
  - Montessori tuitions would stay the same for next year.

# Proposed Tuition changes: Full-day ECE

ECE Full-Day Category name	Income categories						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	NR
% of poverty level	Up to 185%	Up to 225%	Up to 240%	Up to 300%	Up to 340%	Over 340%	Non-Residents
Minimum gross monthly income for family of 4	\$0	\$2,714	\$3,269	\$4,241	\$5,301	\$6,007	n/a
2005-06 to 2008-09	\$0	\$60	\$150	\$270	\$390	\$390	\$390
2009-10	\$0	\$60	\$60	\$270	\$390	\$450	\$760
2010-11 (proposed)	\$0	\$60	\$70	\$270	\$390	\$620	\$800
% increase (proposed) one year	0%	0%	17%	0%	8%	38%	5%
Estimated # of students in each category	2065	8	35	96	76	320	25
% of ECE pop in each category	79%	0%	1%	4%	3%	12%	1%
Tuition as a % of min. monthly income (proposed)		2%	2%	6%	7%	10%	n/a

Note that this is based off minimum monthly income for category

- All 4 year-old tuition rates are inclusive of DPP tuition credits: that is, tuition to parents is not reduced further after DPP credits are received.
- ECE classrooms are high quality: majority have a Qualistar rating of 3; 17 have a 4 star rating; certified, licensed teacher and paraprofessional in every classroom (other districts that offer preschool don't necessarily use licensed teachers).
- Currently, highest DPS tuition is significantly below market for value of program (see appendix).
- Tuition above significantly below cost of providing high-quality, full day services (approx \$1,000 for full day), even with DPP tuition credits (~\$65 per month in highest category next year).
- Assume that Denver Preschool Program will make cuts to tuition credits by 25-50%.
- The large increase proposed for the highest income category (50% over two years) – this is recommended because DPS has been significantly below cost and market rates, and receives limited other funding for this income category.
- Last year, tuition changes included adding non-resident category, increasing price for full-day families and making other minor adjustments to ECE tuition to bring categories in line with Denver Preschool Program categories.

# Proposed Tuition Changes: Half-day ECE

<b>ECE Half-Day</b>	<b>Income categories</b>						
<b>Category name</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>NR</b>
<b>% of poverty level</b>	<b>Up to 185%</b>	<b>Up to 225%</b>	<b>Up to 240%</b>	<b>Up to 300%</b>	<b>Up to 340%</b>	<b>Over 340%</b>	<b>Non-Residents</b>
<b>Minimum gross monthly income for family of 4</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,714</b>	<b>\$3,269</b>	<b>\$4,241</b>	<b>\$5,301</b>	<b>\$6,007</b>	<b>n/a</b>
2005-2008-09	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ 75	\$ 135	\$ 195	\$ 195	\$ 195
2009-10	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 135	\$ 195	\$ 225	\$ 385
2010-11 (proposed)	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ 35	\$ 135	\$ 210	\$ 310	\$ 400
% increase (proposed) one year	0%	0%	17%	0%	8%	38%	4%
<b>Estimated # of students in each category</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>% of Kinder pop in each category</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Tuition as a % of min. monthly income (proposed)</b>		<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>n/a</b>

- Half-day ECE tuition is 50% of full-day tuition.
- Increase in category “C” is a result of expanding tuition categories to accommodate the needs of students.

# Proposed Tuition Changes - 2<sup>nd</sup> half of Kindergarten Day

<b>Kinder 2nd Half Tuition</b>	<b>Income categories</b>						
<b>Category name</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>NR</b>
<b>% of poverty level</b>	<b>Up to 185%</b>	<b>Up to 225%</b>	<b>Up to 240%</b>	<b>Up to 300%</b>	<b>Up to 340%</b>	<b>Over 340%</b>	<b>Non-Residents</b>
<b>Minimum gross monthly income for family of 4</b>		<b>\$2,714</b>	<b>\$3,269</b>	<b>\$4,241</b>	<b>\$5,301</b>	<b>\$6,007</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>2005-2010</b>	\$ -	\$ 90	\$ 180	\$ 180	\$ 270	\$ 270	\$ 270
<b>2010-11 (proposed)</b>	\$ -	\$ 90	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 270	\$ 295	\$ 325
<b>% increase (proposed) 2005-2011</b>	0%	0%	-17%	11%	0%	9%	17%
<b>Estimated # of students in each category</b>	<b>4220</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>% of Kinder pop in each category</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Tuition as a % of min. monthly income (proposed)</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>n/a</b>

- Kindergarten tuition rates have remained the same for 6 years (since 2005-06 school year), when they were increased by \$10 per category.
- Largest proposed increase in Kindergarten tuition for Denver residents is \$25 at the highest income category -- 9% over 6 years, or about 1.5% annualized.
- Increase in tuition for kindergarten non-residents is \$55 to \$325 per month.
- Proposal adds new income categories to match ECE categories. This will provide continuity and clarity for parents graduating from ECE (which has these same income categories).
- Increases in kindergarten tuition place DPS in line with the market (though still well below districts like Douglas and Boulder, which charge highest categories over \$400 per month) – See Appendix.

# Appendix: Comparable tuition rates (ECE)

## Full-day rates

Provider	Full-day 2009-10	Notes
Primrose (for profit)	\$1,100	3 day a week
Boulder	\$888	Estimated--Does not have full day
Douglas	\$750	Estimated--Does not have full day
Littleton	\$726	Based on 4 day
Denver Coop Preschool (non-profit)	\$713	Not including lunch period
Jefferson Co	\$658	Has full day
Cherry Creek	\$640	Estimated--Does not have full day
DPS Proposed	\$620	
DPS Current	\$450	

## Half-day rates

Provider	Half day 2009-10 (assuming 5 days per week)
Boulder	\$444
Douglas	\$375
Littleton	\$363
Montview Preschool	\$359
Denver Coop Preschool (non-profit)	\$356
Jefferson Co	\$340
Cherry Creek	\$320
DPS Proposed	\$310
DPS Current	\$225

- Many of the half-day preschool programs in other districts are offered fewer than 5 days a week.
- Rates were equalized based on 3 hours per day 5 days per week.
- DPS resident rates shown here.

# Appendix: Comparable tuition rates (Kinder)

2nd Half of Kindergarten Day		
Provider	2009-10 (assuming 5 days per week)	Notes
Boulder	\$426	
Douglas	\$414	
Littleton	\$325	
Montview Preschool	\$312	\$624 for full day
DPS Proposed	\$295	
Jefferson Co	\$285	
Cherry Creek	\$285	Free (only 6 schools); rest of schools have paying \$285 option for Kadoodles type program
DPS Current	\$270	
Aurora	\$250	

- First half of Kindergarten day is state mandated and provided for free.
- Proposed rate would put DPS slightly ahead of Jefferson county at the highest income level.

# Community Engagement Strategy

## DPS – Fall 2009

Presentation for BOE Luncheon  
10/22/09

# Timeline

- August: 2009 CSAP results released
- September : 2009 SPF results released
- October :
  - Regional summary review (early October)
  - Schools identified for turnaround strategies (early October)
  - Regional engagement (mid-October thru November)
  - Turnaround engagement (mid-October thru November)
- November:
  - Staff recommendations
  - Board decisions
  - Continued support of students, parents, staff

# Engagement Strategy

- Regional overviews
- Turnaround conversations at the school level
- Capacity conversations at the community level (i.e. Stapleton, Southmoor)
- Middle year options conversations in NW

# How do we provide the most authentic opportunities for parent and community engagement?

Fall 2009 series of regional meetings – and lessons learned:

- Each region's issues are unique. Some common overview issues, but informational and dialogue needs can be tailored for more meaningful conversations in each region. NW Denver example...
- Need to have advance planning for the scheduling of these meetings, in coordination with BOE schedule.
- Going forward, look at fewer 'y' all come' meetings and more parent-driven conversations and meetings. Smaller group meetings – focused on student's/families school feeder options in each region and the surrounding issues.

# Regional Engagement

- Completed first round of meetings 10/20/09
- Following recommendations to the Board of Education in early November, additional targeted meetings will be scheduled with impacted communities to discuss recommendations:
  - GVR Campus
  - Stapleton
  - Turnaround Strategies: Greenlee, Lake, Philips
  - Charter Renewal: NEA, P.S.1, Skyland
  - Additional communities impacted by recommendations

# Engagement at Schools Identified for Turnaround

## Strategies: Greenlee, Lake, Philips

- Communication with **principal and staff** (early October)
- **Letter to parents** informing them of school turnaround and inviting them to information meeting (early October)
- **Parent information meeting** to discuss school turnaround (early October)
- **Follow up meetings with parents** hosted by PFL to discuss individual parent questions (mid October)
- **Review of diagnostic results** with school community (principal, teachers, parents) (end of October/early November)
- **Recommendation meeting** with community stakeholders of each school day of recommendations to BOE (early November)
- Depending on turnaround strategy approved, **additional appropriate support** will be provided to students, parents, and staff (November-ongoing)

# Middle Years Engagement in NW

- In response to the request of those who attended the NW regional meeting, we have scheduled a series of conversations scheduled with elementary school parents in NW Denver to better understand thoughts and preferences about middle year options
- 7 meetings between 10/26 and 11/4

# Charters: Strategy to address lowest performing charter schools

- Like all DPS schools, charters are held accountable for their performance by the SPF. Charter contracts are another means of holding schools accountable.
- The lowest performing charter schools up for renewal are NEA, P.S.1 and Skyland
- At these schools, we have contracted with CDE to conduct a diagnostic review which will inform the renewal recommendations.

# Northeast Academy, P.S.1, Skyland Strategy for School Community Engagement

- **Letter to parents** explaining renewal and inviting stakeholders to information meeting (mid-October)
- **Information meeting** to discuss renewal process, school turnaround, and review results of diagnostic review (end of October)
- **Recommendation meeting** with community stakeholders of each school day of recommendations to BOE (early November)

# Next Steps

- Continue engaging parents and community to inform staff recommendations which will be made to Board of Education in early November
- Share recommendations with impacted communities at time of recommendations
- Board decision late November
- Provide support to students, parents, teachers impacted by board decisions in November