Early Childhood Education in Denver Public Schools

District Accountability Committee

January 26, 2016
ECE Overview

- All but three elementary schools have preschool classes although some are offsite

- Three centers provide offsite services
  
  Escalante-Biggs in FNE
  Stephen Knight in SE
  Pascual LeDoux in SW
ECE Overview

❖ At least one ELA-S ECE classroom in every TNLI school

❖ ECE not required by state law so is parent choice

❖ Parents specify preferred language of instruction
Curriculum and Assessment

❖ Most schools use Creative Curriculum; it is available in Spanish and English
Curriculum and Assessment

❖ There are six schools using Montessori programming, some of which are bilingual

❖ There are six schools using Tools of the Mind
Curriculum and Assessment

❖ All schools use Teaching Strategies GOLD for ongoing assessment of student performance
The district presently serves about 4300 four-year-olds and 1370 three-year-olds.

Also contract out about 1850 slots to community sites.
Classes and Schedules

❖ About 2/3 of classes are full day (6 ½ hours)
❖ 1/3 are half day (2 hours and 45 minutes)
Classes and Schedules

- Schedules follow best practice as defined by Colorado Shines and district standards.
- The English Language Development block is 20 minutes in half-day programs and 45 minutes in full-day programs.
Classes and Schedules

❖ Of 345 individual classes, 95 are ELA-S
Credentials and Licensing

❖ All classrooms required to be licensed by DDHS as preschools or center programs

❖ All ECE teachers must meet both Colorado Department of Education and DDHS requirements

❖ Teachers in ELA-S classrooms must also meet Spanish proficiency requirements

❖ Recruitment can be a challenge
Future Directions

- Work in Early Literacy Proposed/Presented to the Board of Education Aligning ECE-Third Grade
- New ECE Center in the Far Northeast
- Trends in Enrollment

Questions?