



preschool PROMISE

Quarterly Highlights June 2021

In spite of the challenges from COVID-19, **we finished the 2020-21 school year with 1,800 children enrolled in Preschool Promise!** Thank you to all the early educators who stayed on the job, kept children safe and learning and provided critical support to families during this unprecedented time.

In May, we began **enrolling new families** for the upcoming school year! Montgomery County families with a 4-year-old can choose from **100 partner sites** in Dayton, Jefferson Twp., Kettering, Mad River, Northridge, Trotwood-Madison and West Carrollton. **Because of generous funding from Montgomery County, this will be our first year in West Carrollton!**

Thanks to support from the City of Dayton, this school year we'll also be able to enroll 3-year-olds — not just 4-year-olds — whose families live in the City of Dayton or reside in the Dayton Public School District boundaries. The earlier we foster children's learning, the more likely they'll start Kindergarten on track.

Ohio's recent budget debate turned incredibly frustrating when some lawmakers proposed eliminating Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* Star-Rating system that helps support Preschools and early

learning programs serving children experiencing poverty. **We are immensely grateful to state Rep. Phil Plummer, who was instrumental in defeating that effort. That said, *Step Up* is still at risk. Watch for updates about how you can help support our under-funded and incredibly important early educators!**

Help us continue to get the word out about Preschool Promise's important benefits!

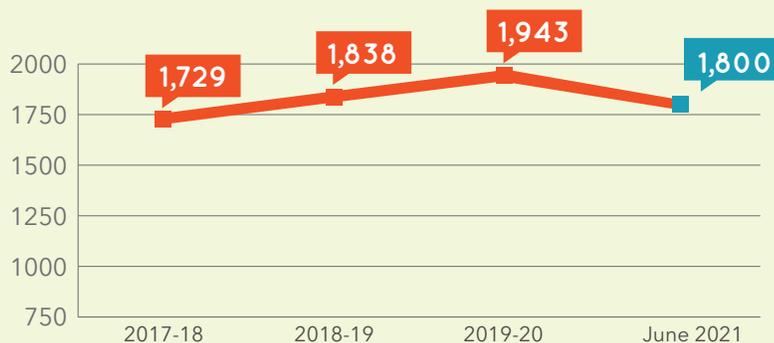
- Children receive a FREE Book-of-the-Month and a FREE monthly Play Box with fun educational activities.
- If a family's Preschool is not already free, they can receive tuition assistance.
- Families get weekly text messages and a monthly postcard with fun Kindergarten readiness tips.
- Families living in Dayton or the Dayton Public School District are eligible for STAR Attendance financial rewards for strong attendance.

Gratefully,

Robyn Lightcap, Executive Director

COVID-19 continues to impact Preschool Promise enrollment

4-year-olds attending Preschool Promise sites/Enrolled in Preschool Promise PLUS



* In 2019-20, Preschool Promise expanded from Dayton and Kettering to Jefferson Twp., Mad River and Trotwood-Madison school districts.

In 2020-21, Preschool Promise expanded to Northridge.

Because of COVID-19, enrollment in Preschool dropped this year. So, we created Preschool Promise PLUS to support children's learning at home. We provided over 1,300 FREE tablets to families preloaded with popular learning apps like ABC Mouse. We're also mailing over 1,400 Play Boxes with engaging learning activities to children each month.

How we're doing on the 3 pillars of the Preschool Promise

"It would have been selfish for me to go to college before my son. I definitely couldn't have gotten my associate's degree without the financial help from Preschool Promise." — **A thank-you from one of five early childhood educators who graduated in May from Sinclair Community College with support from Preschool Promise**

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

- We've trained **12 Outreach Specialists** who are meeting with families and helping them enroll their child in a quality Preschool.
- We'll be at **more than 60 community events** this summer recruiting new families.
- We hosted events on Earth Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Juneteenth and Father's Day **to tell families about Preschool Promise.**
- We're organizing neighborhood walks and going door-to-door in areas with large numbers of children to tell families about Preschool Promise.
- We're spreading the word about Preschool Promise **at food distribution sites.**



EXPANDING QUALITY

- Of last year's 88 partner providers, **81 were rated high quality** under Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* initiative, having earned 3- to 5-Star distinctions.
- **5 programs increased their rating** even during the pandemic.
- We assisted **5 early educators in earning their associate's degree**, offering financial assistance, organizing convenient Saturday classes and by providing other educational support.



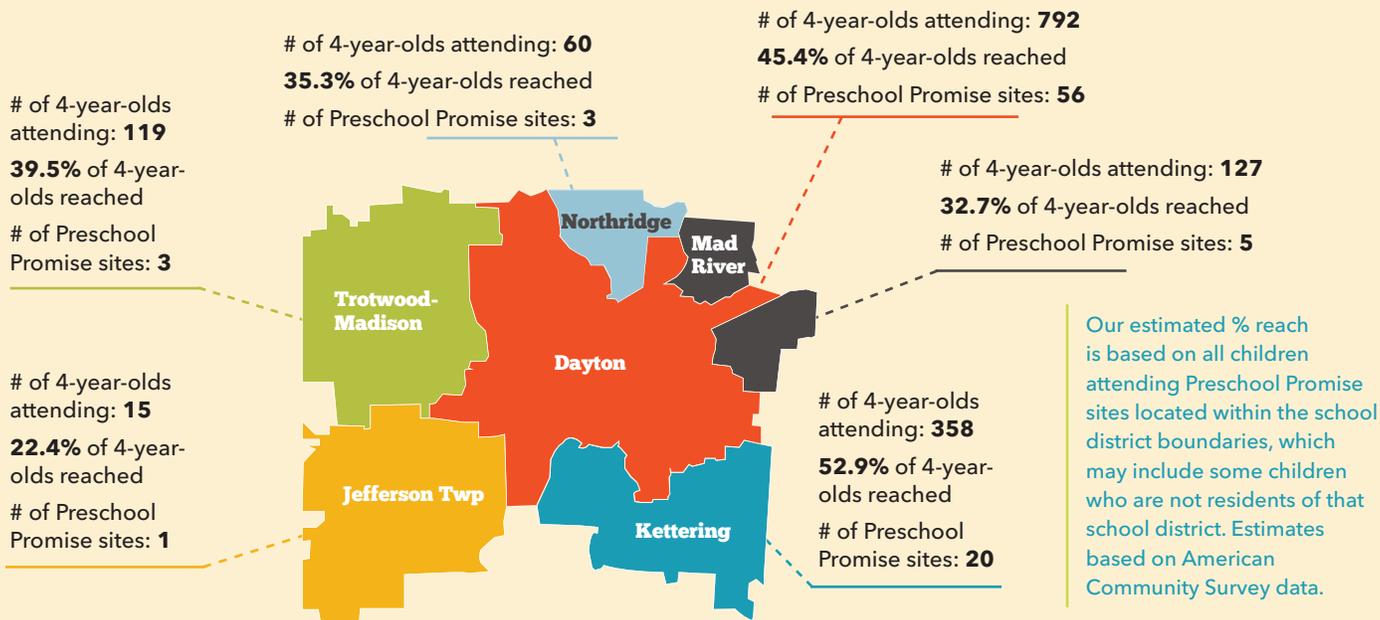
- **140 teachers earned Promise Stipends totaling almost \$212,000** for, among other requirements, staying on the job in the same classroom all year, thereby ensuring consistency for children.
- This school year **teachers earned 3,700 OCCRRA-approved hours** and almost **\$165,000 in stipends** for participating in professional development outside of the work day.
- **Over 300 teachers joined in X-treme trainings**, 9-month-long Professional Learning Communities and workshops.

ASSISTING FAMILIES

- Thanks to support from the City of Dayton, families with a 3-year-olds who live in Dayton or the Dayton Public School boundaries **can now receive all of Preschool Promise's benefits.** Previously, only 4-year-olds were eligible.
- **STAR Attendance rewards** for Dayton and Dayton Public School families **are returning this Fall.** We paused this initiative during the pandemic because many families were not comfortable sending their children to in-person learning.
- We're continuing' subscriptions to the popular learning app **ABC Mouse** through December for our 2020-21 Preschool Promise families who received a free tablet during the pandemic.

We want to reach all young learners

4-year-olds attending Preschool Promise sites in the 2020-21 school year



292: An additional 292 4-year-olds are participating in Preschool Promise PLUS and are not attending a physical Preschool building due to COVID

Star-Rating Updates

Ohio has adopted a voluntary Star-Rating system known as *Step Up to Quality* that is designed to encourage programs to continuously improve. **Over 80% of our Preschool Promise children attend a 5-Star program.** Thanks to Montgomery County's investment, Preschool Promise is partnering with 4C for Children and others to assist all Montgomery County child care providers as they work to increase their Star Ratings.

Montgomery County Child Care Providers' Star-Rating Status, June 2021

| | Total child care sites with PFCC contracts | Total Star-Rated sites | Total highly-rated sites (3- to 5-Star) | Total sites expected to be highly-rated by Dec. 2021 |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|---|--|
| Centers & Type A | 176 | 166 (94%) | 103 (59%) | 122 (69%) |
| Type B | 64 | 61 (95%) | 17 (27%) | 27 (42%) |

* **PFCC Contract** refers to those programs that have a Publicly Funded Child Care contract; they may serve low-income children whose families qualify for help paying for child care while a parent works or attends school.

** **Type A providers** offer child care for up to 12 children at any one time, with another qualified adult staff member, from a home.

*** **Type B providers** offer child care for up to 6 children at any one time from a home.

We will continue to work with providers to help them earn a 3-Star rating or higher.

Thank you for your generous support of Preschool Promise!

