



### Preschools and child care professionals are heroes!

Preschools and child care programs are doing amazing things to support children and families in the face of COVID-19. **Unlike K-12 schools, many did not have the option of starting the school year virtually. Many have been operating continuously since the pandemic began.** Lots of families need to be physically at work and require in-person early learning and child care!

Even though Ohio has allowed programs to return to having full classrooms, **many programs still are operating at reduced capacity to keep children and staff safe — resulting in families being put on waiting lists.** Reduced capacity also means less revenue for these low-margin essential businesses. Meanwhile, their expenses have increased because of the need for more staff, additional cleaning and sanitizing and more personal protection equipment.

**We're so grateful to Montgomery County for setting aside \$5 million from its federal CARES Act funding for child care.** Programs may apply for grants of up to \$30,000. However, we still need Congress to step up and recognize the

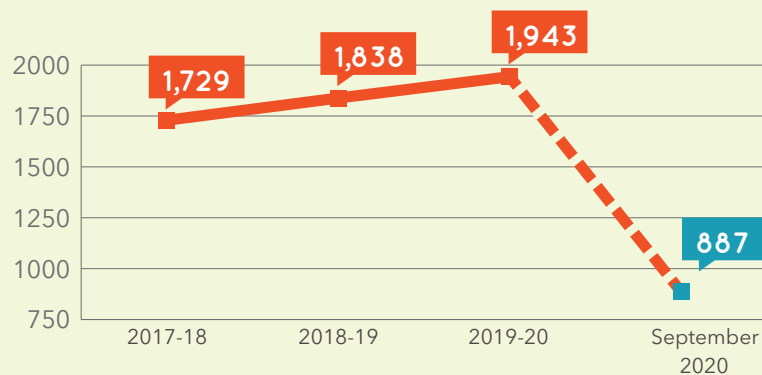
industry needs continued financial support — we can't keep the economy open if families who have to be on the job don't have affordable and accessible child care!

We're excited to offer a new program to nearly all families with a 4-year-old who may not be attending Preschool because of COVID-19 this year or may not be able to attend regularly. **Families who join Preschool Promise PLUS will receive great support to help their child keep learning at home, including a FREE tablet and data as needed. Nearly all Montgomery County families with a 4-year-old can join and receive 1 year of support from Preschool Promise. Even children enrolled in Preschool can participate!** Though children get the most benefit from attending Preschool in-person, we can't let them lose a year of learning!

Thank you to all of early childhood professionals for all they're doing!

### COVID-19 is dramatically impacting Preschool Promise enrollment

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



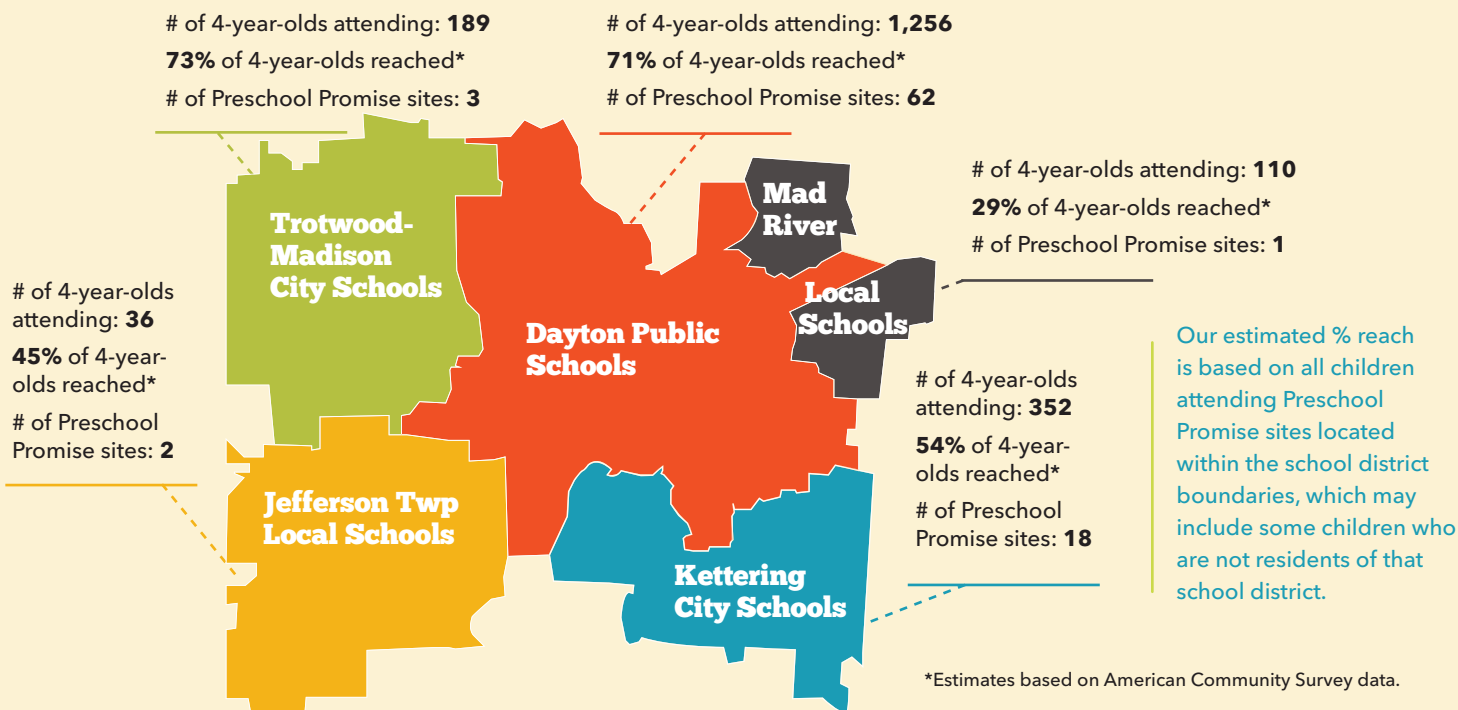
Due to COVID, families can enroll in Preschool Promise in 2020-21 whether or not they attend a Preschool in-person. Nearly 900 families are participating in Preschool Promise so far this year, and we expect that number to grow.

\* 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.

# We want to reach all young learners

## 4-year-olds attending Preschool Promise sites in the 2019-20 school year



## 2019-20 Preschool Promise sites' Star-Rating status

**76%** of Preschool Promise providers are rated 3-Star or better – up by 20 percentage points since 2017

**82%** of our Preschool Promise children are in 5-Star Preschool programs

Ohio has adopted a voluntary Star-Rating system known as *Step Up to Quality* that is designed to encourage programs to continuously improve.

## Star-Rating status for ALL Montgomery County child care providers

There are 316 total licensed child care sites (including family child care and centers) in Montgomery County. The State of Ohio required all early learning programs that accept Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) to earn at least a 1-Star Rating under its *Step Up to Quality* initiative by July 1, 2020. That deadline was postponed until September 1, 2020. Therefore, our focus has been on assisting providers that accept PFCC to meet this deadline.

**Star-Rating Status as of September 30, 2020**

# of schools that accepted PFCC: **271**

**91%**  
(247)

of those schools became Star-Rated!

This is an impressive accomplishment, thanks to Montgomery County's decade-long commitment to assisting providers in earning Star Ratings.

The Star-Rating work is not done! All Type A and center-based child care providers that accept families enrolled in PFCC must earn at least a 3-Star Rating by July 1, 2025. Montgomery County continues to fund Preschool Promise to assist child care providers to improve their Star Ratings, even those not yet eligible to be part of Preschool Promise. We partner with 4C for Children to give essential coaching to programs, so they can move up the Star-Rating ladder.

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

## EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY:

- Our outreach has been limited due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of community events, though **we're frequenting food pantries and Grab-n-Go food distribution sites, some outdoor events and farmers' markets.**
- **Engagement on our social media channels continues to explode.** Preschool Promise's reach on Facebook has increased by 400% over the past year.
- **We invited all candidates running for seats in the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives to take virtual tours of child care programs** to see all that these professionals are doing to keep children safe and learning.
- **More than 140 people came out to the Dixie Twin Drive-In in August to learn about Preschool Promise** and watch *Curious George* on the big screen. Admission was free, and families were treated to free drinks and popcorn.
- **Our Parent Ambassadors group is thriving despite COVID,** and we're meeting virtually each month.
- We're **translating our marketing materials into Spanish.**

## EXPANDING QUALITY:

- Almost **225 early learning professionals** have joined one of our **8 year-long Professional Learning Communities.**
- Professional Learning Community topics include **The Art of the Boy Friendly Classroom; The 3C's: Curriculum, CLASS, and Conscious Discipline; Passport to Kindergarten; Conscious Discipline Introduction; Culturally Responsive Teaching.**
- **We moved all professional development online.**
- **We're assisting programs in getting grants from the federal CARES Act funding** being distributed by Montgomery County.
- **Over 275 early learning professionals** joined our virtual Preschool Promise Kick-Off gatherings.

- **We're meeting via Zoom each month with community organizations that are interested in becoming learning hubs for school-age children** whose K-12 instruction has moved online and whose families must be on-the-job.
- **We've expanded The Promise Stipend,** which ranges from \$800 to \$2,000 for teachers who commit to meeting expectations around training, attendance and data collection regarding student progress.

## ASSISTING FAMILIES

- **Nearly 900 children** are enrolled in Preschool Promise and attending one of our **88 partner programs or participating in our at-home activities.**
- **Families are receiving a free tablet** and year-long subscription to the popular learning app ABC Mouse.

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*"My husband is working from home and serving as a 1st-grade teacher to our daughter and a Preschool teacher to our son. It is a struggle for him to get much work done. ABC Mouse is an engaging way for Sullivan to learn without as much hand-holding!"*

— From a Preschool Promise PLUS mom

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- **Families are receiving monthly Play Boxes** to help their child practice Kindergarten Readiness skills at home.
- **We're creating monthly videos** to demonstrate how to use our Play Boxes and sharing the productions on social media and at PreschoolPromise.org.
- **Our Partners in Play include the K12 Gallery and Tejas, Muse Machine and Dayton Children's Hospital** — all of whom are supporting children to learn through play at home.
- All families are receiving a **free specially selected Book-of-the-Month.**
- All families are getting a **monthly postcard with Kindergarten Readiness and Conscious Discipline activities and tips.**

## WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Families need resources and support to help their children learn at home. They are excited to receive their free tablet and the popular learning app ABC Mouse.

**Thank you for your generous support of Preschool Promise!**

