

BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOLS' EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM

Purpose:

- To prepare Baltimore's children ages 0-5 for success in Kindergarten and beyond by working with families and the community in designing, coordinating and implementing services and programs that address their academic and social-emotional needs.

Core Functions:

- Informs the early childhood landscape for Baltimore City
- Coordinates all City Schools' services and programs for children and families from Birth through age 5; including special education.
- Responsible for the curriculum, instruction and professional development associated with early learning
- Responsible for City Schools' successful implementation of Blueprint initiatives

Office of Early Learning Purpose and Functions

Office of Early Learning Structure

Central Office Structure

- 42 staff
- Funded through general budget and grant funds (\$5.6 M awarded)

Child Find – Ages 3-21

- 865 referrals

Judy Centers – Ages Birth to 5

- 14 Judy Centers

Infants and Toddlers – Ages Birth to 4

- 650 Annual Part B IEP Meetings

Preschool Special Education – Ages 3-5

- 38 Pre-K special education classrooms across 23 schools
- Approximately 450 Preschool special education students

Pre-Kindergarten – Age 4

- 224 Pre-K classrooms across 100 schools
- Approximately 4,000 students
- 448 Pre-K teachers and para-educators



Pre-K Mission

Baltimore City's Pre-K students enter kindergarten prepared for success by engaging in learning through play with teachers who recognize each student's strengths within a supportive learning environment that exposes them to foundational skills and addresses the social emotional needs of the student.



OVERVIEW OF BLUEPRINT PILLAR ONE

Kirwan Comission

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

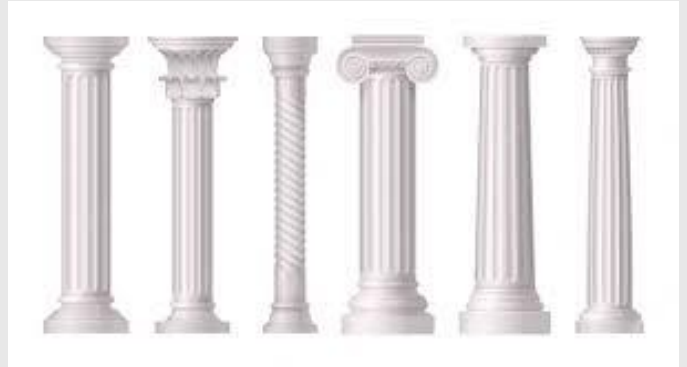
HIGH-QUALITY AND DIVERSE TEACHERS
AND LEADERS

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

MORE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS TO BE
SUCCESSFUL

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

5 Pillars



What is included in Kirwan?

- Increase the number of high-quality private Pre-K providers and staff.
- Certification requirements for para-educators (CDA or AA) by school year 2025-2026.
- Must achieve quality rating of 5 in MD EXCELS
- Expand access for full day programming for 3 year olds
- Private providers are expected to meet 30% of the demand for additional slots in 2022-2023.
- Coordinated and centralized enrollment process.
- Implement a high quality mixed-delivery Pre-K system.



CITY SCHOOLS CURRENT & FUTURE CONTEXT

- **To increase number of high-quality Pre-K classrooms, we will:**
 - Implement office hours for early learning educators in Quarter 1
 - Push out of [rubrics](#) to schools accompanied with a learning arc for building a high-quality classroom
 - Begin implementation of Blueprint for Maryland's Future Early Childhood Pillars
 - Ramp up classroom accreditation process in support of Pillars
 - Implement a professional learning arc for teachers and school leaders

**SY 22/23
Strategy**

What City Schools is already doing?

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will be a mandated assessment for all Kindergarten students.

Increased KRA scores by 8% points during school year 2022-2023

Expand access to free full-day Pre-K for 3 & 4 year-old children from low-income households (up to 300% of the federal poverty level).

More than 85% of City Schools Pre-K students are Tier 1

Mandated funding amounts for the expansion of Judy Centers with the goal of adding 126 new centers by 2029-2030.

Currently 14 Judy Centers in Baltimore City

What City Schools has to ramp up?

MSDE Accreditation & Maryland EXCELS

- All public Pre-K Programs are required to meet Maryland EXCELS by 2029-2030 school year
- Of 100 City Schools with Pre-K, about 25 have currently achieved MSDE Accreditation

Increased Certification for Pre-K Para-educators

- All Pre-K Para-educators are required to have AA degree or CDA certification by 2025-2026 school year
- City Schools is developing partnerships with local IHEs to support staff with increased certification
- Surveying current staff about current educational attainment

What City Schools has to ramp up?

Centralized & Coordinated Enrollment System

- City Schools is bringing on an updated centralized enrollment system during 2025-2026 school year

3 year old programs

- Expand access for full day programming for 3 year olds by 2029-2030 school year



Implementation Plan

Link to City Schools
Implementation Plan [HERE](#)

What's on the horizon for Baltimore city?



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

Building a Mixed Delivery System

Definition

- A mixed delivery system of early care and education is one in which multiple settings are included. This means that all types of programs would be able to access public funding as long as they meet quality standards.

Blueprint Workgroup through ECAC

- Will begin meeting in Spring 2023
- Comprised of about 20 stakeholders in Baltimore City
- Mixed-delivery consultant as the lead

Supports Needed?



Funding support for Blueprint Mixed-Delivery workgroup through ECAC



Professional development for school leaders on the elements of high quality early childhood settings



Funding support for Pre-K para-educator certification pathways with IHEs



Centralized & coordinated enrollment support staff/navigators