

Workforce/
Professional
Development

Parent and
Community
Engagement

Program
Quality and
Monitoring

Facilities

Articulation and
Coordination
with K-3

Data

Preschool Planning Collaborative

Case Statement Comments



February 27, 2007



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Question 1: Orange County should focus on creating access to preschool only for the children in low-achieving school districts.

AGREE: (11)

Strongly agree, but initially given limited resource, we must prioritize & focus on the most at risk children first and foremost, then look at other populations.

Because Pacific Research Institute published a study critical of RAND findings, preschool does little to alter performance in middle to upper class children.

OC should start with low-achieving school districts in phases & work towards universal preschool. We are not ready for universal

Yes, until gaps/discrepancies are reduced.

Highest need must be met. Less needy children parents might seek out. The need is so huge. If all are included it may not happen.

Without an identifiable source of universal funds, Orange County should focus first on impacting low-achieving/underperforming districts/schools.

Use resources that are scarce where they are most needed.

If publicly funded, then only for low-income kids first. Until all served.

Low achieving school districts should be the first focus & then move on to all districts.

New planning & development should definitely be for these areas.

Yes, this is where the need is.

Unsure: (8)

I believe the county should look at a whole. Maybe a larger % should go to the low-achieving school districts.

What happens to the other children that are not in low-achieving school districts?

Families with higher incomes have ability to access high-achieving schools. Low-achieving schools need more help.

With the need we need to prioritize. Give the most funds to the most needed areas, but support the others as well.

1st priority definitely these schools, but the total 4 year old population deserve the same advantage.

If only public money, yes in terms of how far money will stretch. But I believe the more parents and children are included the more support their will be for the concept.

Although it is important to focus on low-achieving schools, when we create a system it needs to be fair and provide for all children that we get need from it.

ONLY public funding??

Don't Agree: (97)

Quality preschool should be available to all children.

Preschool needs to be Preschool for ALL.

Discriminates against children in high-achieving districts.

Public funding should only be used for low income children wherever they live & what district they are in.

No, because there are children in high achieving districts that aren't achieving and if we do so we're closing the door on these children simply for attending "high-achieving" district, whose scores are probably based on 2/3 grade standards achievement.

Question 1, Don't Agree Continued:

No, because of at risk kids in pockets of high-achieving school districts and because preschool is good for all kids. Education should be for all children (Orange County is a range of socio-economics).

No, it should be priority for initial plan, but phase implementation into all districts as identified by need.

No, it is important that all children have the opportunity to attend - so if money is the issue, use age as criteria.

All children should benefit from a quality program.

I don't think we begin the process by excluding those children in high-achieving school districts, but low-achieving school districts should be a main focus.

All children should have access to quality childcare (educated teachers, facilities, curriculum & materials).

Although efforts should begin with districts that have low-achieving schools, all children should have access to preschool funding.

No, plan for ALL children to have preschool.

All children need the opportunity to gain strides with the developmental framework. Children need to learn from each other.

Preschool should be for ALL children regardless of income.

Based upon priorities, begin with low-achieving district & high risk kids, and then focus on entire population in phases.

No one should be penalized because they are rich or poor.

"ONLY" does not account for everyone. Orange County should focus on creating access to preschool for all children.

No, preschool should be available for all.

No, because low-achieving is not the same as low-income, plus we need to look at other factors besides low-achieving.

Quality access should be provided for ALL children.

Public funds should be accessible to one public.

No, there are smaller "pockets" in need of neighborhoods with higher achieving schools. These children are not attending preschool right now - If we only fund areas of high density need, these children will miss out.

I believe families need to qualify via working F/T or educating themselves if they are getting public funding. All children should benefit. What about illegal immigrants and public money.

Don't agree

Absolutely not, there are low-achieving students in ALL of our high performing schools!

No, all children should have access to what we are planning - school opportunity for all, no child left behind.

All children should have access to preschool. , but this is a great starting point.

It should be offered to ALL children. The middle income families struggle to afford childcare as well. Higher income families have more of a choice, there should be funding choices.

No, should have access to ALL children.

ALL children deserve quality preschool.

All children need experience of quality preschool - too many fall through the wide crack. Assuming children from upper-middle class or wealthy families have quality programs is a mistake.

Standardization

Question 1, Don't Agree Continued:

Preschool should be available to ALL children. However, preschool is not the only option for families that may not want to put their children in a preschool program. Home activities should be available.

Don't agree, all children need to have access to preschool.

All 3 & 4 year olds should have access to quality preschool.

All schools have a knowledge/achievement gap. Children who do not get quality early education, the gap remains.

No child should fall through the cracks and all can benefit. Start with low-achieving, but have a template all districts can use.

All preschoolers should have equal opportunity for funding.

No, should be open to all who want to be involved & be supportive.

Irvine has largest amount of HUD housing in OC. Shortage of nearly 300 spots 3-5 year olds (just subsidiary).

All children with needs do not reside in low-achieving districts.

Access should be given to all children; perhaps starting out at the lowest performing then expanding.

No, the families working to be successful are still struggling. Their children also deserve access to preschool.

No, creates a "welfare" perception of users. ALL children should benefit.

No, all children should have equal access.

No, this would create an uneven entry point for many children.

Access to all 4 year olds is critical.

ALL children have a RIGHT to quality preschool.

It should start being implemented in low-achieving areas at first, but should expand to be available to others at different phases.

No, that would create a piecemeal system. It would leave the kids with true needs out (population is fluid)

No, however they should be the initial focus. The investment would be best realized.

No, to maintain quality/success preschool must be for all.

This might be a starting point, but all children need this access. There are many low-income, low-achieving children in all school districts.

All children need preschool no matter what the achievement level is.

Society needs all children to reach their potential. Many high income parents do not provide for a developmentally appropriate environment.

No, there are children of need in schools that are not low-achieving.

No, should be for all children. Let's not make assumptions that only low-achieving are needy or neglected.

We should focus on creating access to preschool for children in all school districts with an initial focus on low API.

No, we are trying to create equity.

No, we know that preschool opportunity for all children benefits the future.

Preschool should not be limited to any one social, economic group if children. Every district should have preschool for all.

No, we should have access for all 4 year olds.

Question 2: If preschool is expanded in our county, both public and private providers should be able to participate in the system.

AGREE: (109)

Yes, right to choice is important. The only way to meet the need is to include all sections.

Absolutely, there are high quality public and private programs. Quality should be determined.

Yes, we want to increase quality preschool in ALL venues.

Yes, gives parents the right and ability to choose.

We are an innovative and entrepreneurial county, so opportunities for children can expand in multiple ways.

Yes, we can't segregate among providers.

Yes, because it's about ALL children having the chance at quality education.

To meet need and many high quality private programs would be appropriate placements.

Yes, we need everyone on board.

Yes, we need to work together.

Absolutely, this will give families the best access to programs close to where they live, with opportunities for wrap around, full-day, etc.

Yes, it will be most likely be necessary to provide the service.

Universal access for all!

Yes, reimbursement based on quality.

Yes, there are a lot of great programs out there. Quality would need to be measured and monitored.

Absolutely essential that all providers can participate.

On a limited bases & private preschool should be the minority.

Yes, we need as many partners at the table as possible to help all gaps.

Absolutely, they should be able to articulate the same.

Yes, should have equal access with equal programs.

By all means, we need different paths.

Yes, that still allows for parental choice.

Agree, quality preschool system should be available to all.

Agree as long as a standard of quality is adhered to.

All providers should be able to participate as long as they can and are required to follow same curriculum standards and teaching qualifications.

Yes, but quality should be maintained.

Yes, it takes many delivery systems and parent's choice to offer comprehensive preschool.

Yes, there are + and - to each. Parent's need choice.

Yes, but there should be a standard of quality.

Yes, we need the resources and investment of all.

Yes, as long as they both adhere to quality standards.

Yes, we must become a collaborating community, not a community of collaborations.

Yes, this is the only way to get the capacity we need.

Question 2, Agree Continued:

This will be a challenge, but the variety of delivery assures parent choice.

Definitely, we must provide wrap-around, full daycare and we need everyone.

Only if it means that low performing schools receive additional money.

Yes, but all need equal training, education and curriculum (quality).

Yes, need to bring all layers to the table.

Yes, we need to pull together and all work toward the same goal.

Absolutely, public and private partnership will bring more resources to the table.

Yes, it encourages higher levels of quality available to children.

Yes, in order to meet the needs of a diverse population, you must have a mix of providers.

Yes, allows for consistency of quality programs.

Yes, but systems need to be in place to ensure high quality is part of the private system.

Yes, we should expand in systems that are already present. We should also not push out/ignore systems.

Yes, quality should be across the board.

Collaboration should be a key to make preschool a priority.

Yes, believe that private providers should be considered first.

Yes, if 1) Agree to meet need, 2) Enough for everyone, 3) private have facilities.

Yes, to create continuity in the quality of services to children regardless of where they move.

Yes, public/private partnership is essential.

Yes, it allows competition.

Yes, if private providers can provide a quality program.

Yes, it should be universal across the county for best practices.

Yes, but they all must be held to the same expectations.

Yes, it will be necessary to provide enough facilities/staffing.

Yes, because it would create an environment that fosters quality approaches.

Yes, they are tax payers.

Yes, they should be distributed to those providers who are focusing or providing services for low-income/low-achieving school districts

Yes, the focus should be on quality and making sure institutions offer quality education.

Yes, in order to accommodate the need it is critical to expand to private operators, especially those who are providing high quality care.

Yes, family childcare should be allowed to participate as long as providers are willing to get the training it takes to operate a quality program.

Yes, It would be nice initially to see public providers only, then move to share philosophy/learning with private. Add private funds 35 years out.

I think it is essential for both public and private to participate together in order to truly create an efficient system

Question 2, Unsure: (8)

Unsure

Don't know, needs careful thought.

Not sure what "the system" refers to.

Unsure, only if public and private preschools are subject to the same standards.

Funding should go to public/non-profit first then private

Don't Agree: (1)

Publicly funded money should stay in the public system.

Question 3: We have the ability to create a preschool system in Orange County that is so effective, we will reduce the number of low achieving schools by half.

AGREE: (66)

Yes, let's do it!

Must create synergy. Too many players and too much power.

With buy in by all

Absolutely possible!

Absolutely possible-what we invest in matters

I agree with the support and investment it is doable

What in admirable goal to have

Agree-we have the ability

Agree. However I would prefer to say "preschool activities" will be effective to reducing...

All things are possible but it will take the cooperative efforts of all agencies to make it happen.

Yes and reduce it be even more

Preschools are certainly the starting point for this. Would need collaboration with other sources as well

With a lot of work over time

Must be cooperative effort

Yes agree!

If we don't believe this why are we all here.

Obvious

Yes, with legislative support

Absolutely!

Yes! Need leaders.

Low achieving students not just low achieving schools.

By half? But there will be increased benefits.

But what we need is money and consensus on what is quality

Question 3, Agree Continued:

But needs coordination and consensus

Yes-put aside differences-tend to grandstand

Yes, we have a lot of resources and opportunities.

If the plan is done with that in mind and can effectively implement.

If the preschool is quality

Yes, but how long will it take?

I think this is feasible

With combined efforts we could probably accomplish more.

We can.

With money and collaboration

Yes, the talent, passion and vision is here.

The ability is there, yes! Planning and development

Research shows that effect-just need the will, the collaboration and the money.

Orange County is capable of a grand plan that can benefit all children.

Yes-at least half depending on quality of school/teachers.

Yes-knowledge, training, interest, intent

Yes with enough money to support the advanced education of teachers

With business collectively helping.

Yes, however we will have to work collaboratively.

Unsure: (38)

It will take time and the percent of improvement depends on other factors.

Possibly

If parents don't understand the need for preschool education they will not necessarily help and or encourage their children in learning.

Don't know. The power is there, funding!

Looking at stability factors, population movements.

How can that be determined per your arguments earlier

Don't know the benchmark for success i.e. is this generally true or what would be the timeframe for measurement?

Not sure, need to decrease at 70%

Many factors to consider.

Ability is based on financing available and right now I don't see the money.

By when? Given the cons here, have might be low

That's hard to determine...

Depends on service to English language learners.

Question 3, Unsure continued:

Not sure if half is the right number.

I am not confident about the willingness of large organizations to collaborate (re. commission, dept. of Ed., United Way, Head Start)

As long as there is excellent articulation to elementary schools.

Resources.

??

Sincerely hopefully but unsure

Possibly-there are many factors to consider

How to do a study to track all information.

Commitment is needed on all sides.

Unsure-parent influence plays key role.

What timeline?

Unsure- Having the ability and doing it are not the same thing

Depends on follow through and commitment of stakeholders

How much time are we talking here- this would take huge commitment; investment on all ends-I hope so.

There are so many factors that affect the low achieving school-not apply.

This has so many variables but the goal is important.

Only if K-12 steps up to the plate.

Don't Agree: (13)

Coordination is such right not that performance enhancement fails to be realized after the first few years of k-12 education.

Unsure- 1) Public must participant 2) Many variables affect schools

Preschool is not a "silver bullet"-there are more factors contributing to low achieving school then just lack of preschools.

Not without good articulation and improvement of K-12

I don't agree-Not because I think the county shouldn't have the ability to create an effective system-I think just don't have that tying outcomes to low achievement in schools is valid.

We should be able to reduce "all" low achieving schools. Our goal should be lofty

Great dream! It will take lots of work, time and money to make this a reality

We also need lower class size in K-5. We need more time for other subjects than language arts and math; art, social studies, science. Our elementary curriculum is impoverished and narrow because of testing.

No-need additional funding

Unsure-depends on the time frame.

Sometimes achievement is not noticed a few years down the line from preschool.

Issue is not only number of preschool sites but rather parental approach to the benefit of preschool experience.

Question #4: If we're going to do something about quality, we should make sure preschool teachers meet the same educational requirements as K-12 teachers (BA + ECE credential.)

AGREE: (87)

...or early childhood special education. I agree!! And of course raise pay scale to match public school salary schedules.

Educating needs to be paid for by employees/grants etc. and ongoing.

Education is critical to understand the child's needs.

Yes! No substitute for quality trained teachers.

Yes, with the same salaries as well-Preschool credential.

Yes, agree-BA or equivalent.

Yes, professional development and education impact quality of teachers.

This is really important to ensuring quality.

Ultimately, yes. Great goal!

Yes-all teachers do not grandfather in existing teachers but phase in requirements.

Yes, and we need to pay them comparably.

Essential!

Yes, but pay needs to be equivalent if we are going to require the same education.

And salaries must compensate.

Yes, need dollars.

Yes, with a seven year phase in process.

I think preschool students deserve highly qualified leading; teaching them.

Yes, with differentiated staffing.

Definitely need to qualified teachers not just babysitters.

Same requirements and same salary.

Yes! This speaks volumes to the intentionality and the commitment of young children.

Agree-high quality preschool curriculum should be taught by professionals.

Yes, if we're saying its important; we have to put investment into them.

But then you must pay them equal pay.

Absolutely!

With plan to provide additional Education for current teachers.

There will be an issue with the pay. Preschool teachers are paid way too low.

BA in ECE. ECE permit until credential is created.

Must be an ECE credential.

Yes and assist teachers to get there funding, partnership with higher education.

I think this would be a wonderful and goal and guarantee highly qualified teachers.

As professionals we need to step up to the plate.

Over the 7-10 year period.

Question 4, Agree continued:

Yes, credentialing is key to consistent education and improved outcome.

Yes, to pay them will this is need but need to avoid push down curriculum.

Absolutely! Untrained “teachers” are presently causing harm.

BA in child Development.

Absolutely AND we need to support teachers in earning the BA/credential through creative delivery.

Yes, but they will need support to achieve this goal.

Agree, as long as funded and gradually phased in.

Preschool teachers should have high educational requirements.

We need to strategize about money/funding. Collaborating in higher education/adult Ed/United Way.

Preschool teachers should have the same requirements since they are expected to perform.

Absolutely! But it needs to be funded properly.

Yes! For a variety of reasons: respect and universal acceptance from K-12 system.

Absolutely! The higher the quality, the better the service to children.

Why would we shortchange our youngest asset?

Yes, to create high quality programs give teachers the opportunity to earn the same/ competitive salaries

Absolutely, as long as they will be paid equally and the possibility to get this education has financial assistance to offer them.

And pay accordingly.

This provides a stronger professionalism to the field. Need to increase salaries however.

And all current preschool teachers may not be able to attain a college degree.

Teachers are the critical variable.

Absolutely!

Educated employees create high quality opportunities for children.

Although will there be enough teachers.

Funding, quality money given to allow for professional development.

It is essential for Preschool teachers to have some education to provide quality ECE.

Quality is achievable if teachers are adequately prepared!

This is a great goal! Salary needs to be increased for preschool teachers.

It will create common knowledge base for staff and assist in recognizing the gaps where staff development should occur.

However should have a phase in period so that preschool teachers can get education.

If they get paid the same as K-12 teachers and there is enough money to support this.

Fully-qualified to implement model.

Yes, in addition to other training and experiences.

In the future definitely. In the meantime need to develop milestones leading to this.

There jobs are just as important as the elementary teachers.

Key to credibility and raising professionalism of the field.

UNSURE: (17)

Unsure- I do agree, but we don't want to leave out capable people.

Unsure- 1) Many good teachers don't have a BA. 2) Doesn't guarantee quality

Are there enough programs available to educate individual on a BA and ECE credential?

I believe that quality is not based on what already exists.

How realistic is goal, given availability given availability of academic programs?

It's more than a piece of paper. ECE credential is essential with quality techniques.

I do agree but we have to be realistic about transitioning good teachers. We don't want to discourage the small workforce we do have.

Keeping ECE units is essential; I would not want liberal studies majors' teachers preschool.

Don't agree only based on the fee structure to pay them money. Conceptually agree with premise.

Not necessarily, the CDC matrix works and in order to meet workforce demand and support diversity, we need AA level teachers.

Increase training and education. Strive for higher standards.

Preschool teachers should not be forced to have a BA degree unless they want to pursue it. They should not be penalized if they do not pursue higher education, but want to be a preschool teacher.

Desired but difficulties to implement. How?

I am unsure, I think more on ECE.

24? AA in ECE? 4 BA + 24 Units, yes.

DON'T AGREE: (12)

Not necessarily. Not all degreed and credentialed teachers are effective. There should be options.

Schooling needs to be more specific but hands -on experience critical. It's not just the education that makes a good preschool.

Yes. Funding.

I work with family child care. This does not include all the critical qualities for quality service.

No. This can be prepared through community college. ROP programs in Early Childhood certified.

We don't have enough teachers in the next ten years to just meet the regular public schools.

There are lots of quality teachers with out degrees experience is important.

Only if financial aid is available and compensation matched K-12.

There are many quality teachers who don't have a BA but are knowledgeable - at least an AA.

Many diverse teachers are doing good jobs without a BA.

They are not performing the same type of work.

Question #5: Any family who wants their child to attend preschool should be willing to pay something, however small, toward the overall cost of services.

AGREE: (64)

Yes-it raises their level of confidence and investment.

Somewhat only those who can afford something. The rest can volunteer and provide materials.

Question 5, Agree continued:

I believe that there is more ownership if there is some investment.

Amen. I see horrible attendance in Head Start classrooms. Families need to appreciate their opportunities for preschool.

Even if the something is volunteering their time.

Seems only fair, especially since middle class (if there still is one) seems to have the greatest burden.

Yes, even if practically nothing. This gives ownership.

I agree but what will be the "system" to determine the cost and will this "system" be cost effective and reasonable.

Agree. Payment equates to value and commitment. Sliding scale.

This could create the by-in for each early childhood education from parents.

Yes, because if you don't pay something it is taken for granted not appreciated and lack by-in.

Should be on a sliding scale. When have to pay even a little, it seems to be thought of as more valuable.

Yes and participation should also be a mandatory component.

Yes even if it's on a sliding scale where family pays \$5.00 a month.

When people pay they have ownership in the program and are more likely to participate.

Yes, this allows everyone the opportunity to invest in their child's future. Lots of families will feel the commitment.

Yes, every parent should pay something regardless of income.

Yes, but it could be in charge of parental involvement or in-kind small fee.

All families must have a vested interest in their child's education.

A value attached usually makes the issue more important.

Totally agree!! Payment could be volunteering as well.

Value what you have to work or pay for.

Very good point-variety of ways to pay.

Pay based in part on income.

Yes, research shows one feels more a part of if can contribute.

With financial commitment comes personal commitment.

Sliding scale provides pride and ownership of program.

Yes, at KWS \$5 a month. Parents that cannot volunteer in our center.

I think it would show a real commitment to the overall goal but would like to see scholarship available.

Yes, Responsibility and accountability, Pride.

If they can afford it-sliding scale maybe.

Maybe only time/volunteer.

Yes, people who have a mutual benefit situation appreciate what they are getting.

Yes! No investment means it is not of value. For needy families it should be a sliding scale. People treasure and value those that have a commitment.

As long as it is monetarily equivalent to that which is asked of K students (field trips or a material cost/fee)

Yes!!! This will be the only way to help with cost.

Question 5, Agree continued:

Volunteering in parent participation preschools is a “price” for families who qualify for subsidized preschool. This would give more value to the education.

Yes. It seems more value is added to something if there is vested financial interest. If parents have to pay, they will probably ensure attendance and participation.

Not necessarily Money, but some time or contribution. Parents need to be part of this and not assume all the responsibility is on our field.

if time also counts.

Yes, even a minimal amount creates a Psy. Commitment parents need to understand the value.

I think parents would have increased feelings of responsibility to things they invest money into. Also need commitment to prepare.

More meaning when at least some cost, not a “free” service.

Yes, or contribute in some other way.

Not pay, but contribute.

Ownership creates a wonderful commitment to succeed.

More investment from families no matter how small the amount they pay.

Creates investment and value. Need to be careful how to maintain affordability.

Benefit is that perception that paying for something means it “must be worth something”

Not for preschool programs but for extended day services.

agree (or volunteer their time).

This can be in kind as well.

For child to be successful, family needs to have/demonstrate some investment and willingness to show buy in to education.

Parent investment is an investment in their child’s future.

UNSURE: (16)

Yeah, but that “something ought to be the same for all families.

depends on our goals

Pay might be in the form of volunteering.

What is determined by “small”? Perhaps it would be paid in time, donation service instead of a monetary donation.

I think there should be opportunities for scholarships or time given to support price.

It is true that there is a different type of ownership when contributing in this way.

Can they or will they? The children that truly need it.

Only if it is on a sliding scale and the low income pay is a minimal amount.

If monetary no! But families could invest time, volunteer or work.

Willingness and ability are two separate things. They may want to but absolutely can NOT.

Depends on their means. But people can pay beyond the dollars. Doing their part to learn how to navigate the system, role of parents in their child’s education.

Question 5, Unsure continued:

I believe in sliding scales.

DON'T AGREE: (37)

Defeats the purpose! Will absolutely eliminate the audience with greatest needs.

I think there should be some sort of sliding scale, but many have nothing to contribute they shouldn't be penalized.

K-12 education is part of the tax dollar. Pre-K should be also.

A lot of children would miss out on preschool due to lack of funds.

Except HS or low income families.

Some of our OC families are struggling to survive.

Need to look at ability to pay.

Some families can't afford anything- use sliding fee scale based on income where some pay zero.

If it is public ally funded, it needs to be fully funded. Families can pay for wrap-around services before and after school services.

Some can not afford to pay-hard to feed and keep a shelter for some families.

Taxes!! Especially if universal.

We pay taxes-I'd rather see parents willing to pay with their time.

Neediest families should not be required, could be a barrier, but could/should require parent involvement and commitment.

Some areas can not afford to send children to quality programs.

No, I think that parent participation should be able to count toward costs.

Good idea for investment! If you pay you tend to feel you are "in".

Free preschool, possible sliding scale for before and after.

Families under 75% of SMI shouldn't pay anything.

Some families are living too far below the poverty line, are in school etc.

Time on other commitments may also be effective methods for Parent involvement.

This may keep the very neediest families children from receiving services.

School is a right...Not a privilege.

We pay now or we pay later.

Don't feel this is important.

Some families will probably not have their children participate because they have no funds they are just surviving.

No, but I do believe they should have to participate (volunteering, parent mtgs., etc.)

1) Many families won't participate. 2) Some can't afford. 3) Public K-12 doesn't require payment. 4) Take away equity.

Free access will reach those who may need it most.