An Action Plan for Early Childhood Education

Access to high-quality early care and education programs gives all children, from birth to age five, the strong start they need in life to realize their full potential, to have economic opportunity, and to make our community prosperous.

1. Clear the child care subsidy waiting list for children under age five.
2. Adopt a six-year phase-in for voluntary, universal public pre-k for all 4-year-old children, with a sliding fee scale for families above 200% of poverty.
3. Implement ECE workforce talent development and retention strategies to meet ECE workforce needs.
4. Develop a strong evaluation component tied to ECE investment.
5. Consider a revenue source for an ECE expansion, tied to evaluation for accountability and continuous quality improvement.

**Public Will is Strong…**

- 93% agree that children do better in school if they start school ready to learn.
- 72% would pay $10 MORE in taxes per month to increase access to high-quality child care for young children.
- 71% would pay $10 MORE in taxes per month to support voluntary, universal public pre-k for 4-year-old children.

Two-thirds would pay $20 more in taxes per month to expand access to high-quality child care and voluntary, universal public pre-k.

**Creating Opportunity**

- More information: Mecklenburg County Manager’s Office
  Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center
  600 E. 4th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202
  980.314.2900    MecklenburgCountyNC.gov
  https://www.mecknc.gov/CountyManagersOffice/Pages/Home.aspx

**A call to action. NOW!**

Put the policies and resources in place to promote economic opportunity for all Mecklenburg County children.