

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Board Meeting – December 14, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board President David Rusterholtz at 6:04 p.m. with the following members present: Cassie Kimbrell, Suzanne Patterson, and Mr. Rusterholtz.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF STATE OF COLORADO, MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by High School student Allie Orellana. The Pledge was followed by a moment of silence.

AMEND AGENDA

President Rusterholtz shared that since threats were made to the Board, the WPHS Madrigals will not perform for safety reasons. MOTION Kimbrell, second Patterson, to amend the agenda by removing item IV.a. MOTION CARRIED; Voting Aye – Kimbrell, Patterson, Rusterholtz.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

MOTION Patterson, second Kimbrell, to approve the amended agenda. MOTION CARRIED; Voting Aye – Kimbrell, Patterson, Rusterholtz.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following list of people (name and topic they listed when signing up to speak) made public comment to the Board of Education listed in the order in which they signed up: Luke Kettler, student, superintendent; Erin O'Connell, community member, students; Mary Ward, parent, superintendent; Khurshid Rogers, parent, superintendent; Gene Harris, taxpayer, encourage board/superintendent; Sharron Langhart, parent, Merit; Jacob DeSmidt, student, superintendent; Bode Wolin, student, superintendent; Bill Brown, staff, superintendent; Carey Williams, community member, board work; Aaron Helstrom, parent, general; Carol Greenstreet, community member, general; Chase Steel, student, school culture.

CONSENT CALENDAR/Blanket Motion

MOTION Kimbrell, second Patterson, to accept administrative recommendation and approve action on the following items:

VI.a. Minutes – November 9, 16, 30, 2022

VI.b. Financial Reports (Addendum A)

VI.c.1. Personnel – New Contracts -- Certified: *Leslie Conrad*, CES .2 FTE Enrichment Academy, effective December 9, 2022; **Classified:** *Terry Shreve*, District Van Driver, effective November 8, 2022; *Alicia Brown*, CES Special Education Paraeducator (MM), effective November 30, 2022; **Transfers – Certified:** *Annie LaGrange*, GES Preschool Paraeducator to GES Kindergarten, effective December 2, 2022; **Classified:** *Danielle Grive*, HS Special Education PLACE Paraeducator to MS Special Education AN Paraeducator, effective December 5, 2022. **Guest Teacher List:** *Lois DeVaux, Evan Wenberg, Shelley Greenfield.*

VI.c.2. Personnel – Resignations – Certified: *Megan Lambert*, HS Math, effective December 9, 2022; *Leslea Moudy*, GES Kindergarten, effective December 2, 2022; **Classified:** *Michael Terry*, District Safety & Security Officer, effective November 18, 2022. **Retirements:** *Kathy Eans*, Elementary ELL, effective February 3, 2023; *Beth Woods*, SES Grade 2/3, effective end of the 2022-23 school year.

VI.d. Mill Levy Certification (Addendum B)

MOTION CARRIED; Voting Aye – Kimbrell, Patterson, Rusterholtz.

UPDATE ON INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT PROCESS BY BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

Director Kimbrell shared the Board of Education and District Accountability Committee (DAC) will jointly interview the Interim Superintendent finalist Ken Witt on Monday, December 19, 2022.

UPDATE ON BOARD OF EDUCATION DIRECTOR DISTRICT A VACANCY TIMELINE

President Rusterholtz shared at the December 7, 2022 Special Board Meeting of the Board of Education, a resolution declaring one (1) Director Vacancy was approved. We are currently accepting letters of intent/application through Friday, January 13, 2023. Appointment for vacancy will be until November 2023. Date to interview candidate(s) still to be determined.

BOARD OF EDUCATION SECRETARY VACANCY

Due to Director Austin's resignation, there is an officer position open, Board Secretary, that needs to be filled. MOTION Patterson, second Rusterholtz, to nominate Director Cassie Kimbrell. MOTION CARRIED; Voting Aye – Kimbrell, Patterson, Rusterholtz.

UPDATE – NATE OWEN, WPEA PRESIDENT

Woodland Park Education Association President Nate Owen read a statement to the Board of Education (Addendum C).

UPDATE – MERIT ACADEMY, DR. GWYNNE PEKRON, CHIEF ACTION OFFICER

Merit Academy Chief Action Officer Dr. Gwynne Pekron provided the monthly update on Merit Academy highlighting educational opportunities, i.e. Science Olympiad, concurrent enrollment, Pikes Peak College credit – adding AP Bio. Thanked both Miles Tuttle and Ron Stone for their work on the portable.

CO-INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Co-Interim Superintendent and Chief of Staff Del Garrick shared: Congratulations to the WPHS Cheer Team. The squad recently competed at the CHSAA State Championships where they earned a 1st Place finish and a state title. This is the first team state title in school history. The team is scheduled to perform their state championship routine in front of the student body on December 15 at 3:15 p.m.; congratulations to our 8th grade Boys Basketball team as they won the league tournament and are league champions; Madrigals will be performing in the annual Madrigals Dinner this Friday and Saturday beginning at 6:30 p.m. - tickets required.

Mr. Garrick distributed a fact sheet on the Colorado Universal Preschool Program (Addendum D). Registration for families will open beginning in January. The District has been planning for this opportunity and we are still navigating through the rules and funding. Co-Interim Superintendent and

Chief Academic Officer Tina Cassens shared we are re-opening Columbine Elementary Preschool and will have branches at Gateway and Summit as well.

Ms. Cassens recognized the efforts of the Middle School staff and the Critical Incident Response Team with the recent passing of a seventh-grade student and shared how proud she is of this team. She thanked Merit Academy for offering guest teachers to cover classes.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Secretary Kimbrell shared her sadness for the loss of a student and thoughts go out to the classmates and the family.

President Rusterholtz concurred with Ms. Kimbrell's statement and commended the supports that are in place, continually impressed by this school district. He congratulated the sports teams and Cheer.

ADJOURN

MOTION Kimbrell, second Patterson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. MOTION CARRIED; Voting Aye – Kimbrell, Patterson, Rusterholtz.

Attest:



Board of Education Secretary



Board of Education President

ADDENDUM A

Woodland Park School District RE-2
General Fund
Revenue/Expenditure Report (Unaudited)
November 2022

	FY 2022	Nov-21		FY 2023	Nov-22	
	Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%
Revenues						
Prop & SO Tax	9,601,096	114,974	1.20	10,180,547	99,517	0.98
Sales Tax	2,710,402	-	0.00	2,940,163	-	0.00
Earnings on Investments	15,000	(397)	(2.65)	5,000	16,940	338.80
Rents/Leases	62,000	6,711	10.82	72,000	5,350	7.43
Other Local Sources	373,000	4,634	1.24	375,000	3,542	0.94
Services Provided to Charter School	-	-	0.00	701,263	46,980	6.70
Charter School Allocation - MLO	-	-	0.00	(151,511)	(39,444)	26.03
State Equalization	10,004,210	850,429	8.50	11,763,208	902,247	7.67
ECEA (Special Ed)	55,000	-	0.00	15,000	-	0.00
IDEA Part B	150,000	23,851	15.90	204,502	-	0.00
State Ed Priorities Flowthrough	22,000	-	0.00	22,000	-	0.00
Charter School Allocation - State Shares	-	-	0.00	(2,952,563)	(238,654)	8.08
PERA Nonemployer Revenue	335,764	-	0.00	335,764	-	0.00
Medicaid Reimbursement	486,157	21,271	4.38	487,448	26,851	5.51
Rural Funding	391,040	-	0.00	413,551	-	0.00
Other	(261,000)	1,911	(0.73)	(2,289,934)	-	0.00
Revenues	23,944,669	1,023,384	4.27	22,121,438	823,330	3.72
Expenditures						
Instructional	11,062,700	646,198	5.84	10,659,306	805,490	7.56
Special Education	2,910,830	159,728	5.49	2,809,839	182,539	6.50
Co-Curricular	613,056	146,240	23.85	633,563	183,517	28.97
Support Services	1,214,002	54,069	4.45	1,263,578	97,073	7.68
Instr Staff	1,356,236	80,831	5.96	1,500,065	117,932	7.86
General Admin	1,036,958	55,902	5.39	1,168,024	63,216	5.41
School Admin	1,644,897	89,907	5.47	1,759,303	138,235	7.86
Business Svc	443,394	21,742	4.90	472,850	25,978	5.49
Oper & Maint	2,191,287	107,130	4.89	2,477,529	208,528	8.42
Student Transp	1,097,486	239,982	21.87	1,203,294	123,508	10.26
Central Support	189,690	(56,574)	(29.82)	402,572	37,187	9.24
Other Support	898,566	585,558	65.17	902,646	593,484	65.75
Facilities & Sites	943,680	25,634	2.72	31,842	78,490	246.50
	25,602,782	2,156,346	8.42	25,284,411	2,655,177	10.50

Notes:

*Expenditures, Facilities & Sites: Includes annually appropriated capital lease purchase payments

*Central Support includes E-rate reimbursement applied in July and September

*Other Funding includes \$2,000,000 Capital Projects Allocation and \$419,000 Risk Management Allocation

*Charter School Allocation - MLO includes MLO, Sales Tax, Title II and ELPA

ADDENDUM A

General Fund Fund Balance Report

12/8/2022

Fiscal YR 2022	7/31/2022	8/31/2022	9/30/2022	10/31/2022	11/30/2022	12/31/2022	1/31/2023	2/29/2023	3/31/2023	4/30/2023	5/31/2023	6/30/2023
Beg Fund Bal	\$ 10,575,494	\$ 8,415,776	\$ 7,951,654	\$ 4,424,492	\$ 3,437,771	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924
- Restrictions	\$ 1,351,195											
+ Revenues	\$ 891,096	\$ 1,181,350	\$ (1,161,044)	\$ 916,558	\$ 823,330	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
- Expenditures	\$ 1,896,045	\$ 1,645,472	\$ 2,366,118	\$ 1,903,279	\$ 2,655,177	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Balance	\$ 8,415,776	\$ 7,951,654	\$ 4,424,492	\$ 3,437,771	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924	\$ 1,605,924
0%	26%	24%	13%	10%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

Fiscal YR 2022	7/31/2021	8/31/2021	9/30/2021	10/31/2021	11/30/2021	12/31/2021	1/31/2022	2/29/2022	3/31/2022	4/30/2022	5/31/2022	6/30/2022
Beg Fund Bal	\$ 8,987,438	\$ 6,681,684	\$ 6,573,756	\$ 6,247,138	\$ 5,301,578	\$ 4,168,617	\$ 3,693,198	\$ 2,851,525	\$ 2,809,260	\$ 6,322,964	\$ 5,549,206	\$ 7,213,167
- Restrictions	\$ 1,221,178											
+ Revenues	\$ 622,137	\$ 1,584,732	\$ 1,358,648	\$ 987,575	\$ 1,023,384	\$ 1,580,631	\$ 834,430	\$ 1,770,390	\$ 5,177,623	\$ 1,065,010	\$ 3,504,505	\$ 4,808,629
- Expenditures	\$ 1,664,113	\$ 1,735,260	\$ 1,685,265	\$ 1,933,135	\$ 2,156,346	\$ 2,056,050	\$ 1,676,103	\$ 1,812,654	\$ 1,663,919	\$ 1,838,767	\$ 1,840,544	\$ 2,667,481
Fund Balance	\$ 6,681,684	\$ 6,573,756	\$ 6,247,138	\$ 5,301,578	\$ 4,168,617	\$ 3,693,198	\$ 2,851,525	\$ 2,809,260	\$ 6,322,964	\$ 5,549,206	\$ 7,213,167	\$ 10,575,494
0%	20%	20%	19%	16%	13%	11%	9%	8%	19%	17%	22%	32%

Values may change as Adjusting Journal Entries are posted.

Fund Balance is actually calculated once at the end of the fiscal year. The 'Fund Balance' figure provides an estimation of the accessible FB each month. The 6/30 Fund Balance represents total reserves at year end.

ADDENDUM A

		Investment Report FY 23												Earnings	

ADDENDUM B

Woodland Park School District

'Elevate Your Education'

Serving Woodland Park, Divide and Florissant

A RESOLUTION OFFICIALLY CERTIFYING THE LEVY OF THE WOODLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023 (1/2 Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and 1/2 fiscal year 2023-2024) TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Section 39-5-128 (1), C.R.S. requires that WOODLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2 certify its 2022 levy to the Board of County Commissioners of TELLER COUNTY no later than December 15; and

WHEREAS, Section 39-10-114 (1) (a) (I) (B), C.R.S. which authorizes school districts to certify an Abatement and Refund Mill Levy in order to recover abatement of taxes.

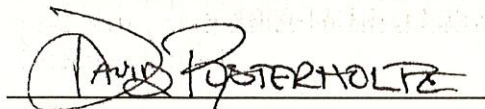
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, WOODLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2:

Section 1. Pursuant to section 39-5-128 (1), C.R.S., as amended, the WOODLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2 hereby certifies the Board of County Commissioners of TELLER COUNTY that the School District's 2023 levy on all taxable property within the County shall be as follows:

Mill Levy per HB20-1418	27.000 mills	\$8,822,844
HB20-1418 Tax Credit	2.450 mills	\$800,591
<hr/>		
HB20-1418 Net Mill Levy	24.550 mills	\$8,022,253
Authorized Override	3.366 mills	\$1,099,915
Bond Redemption Fund	0.000 mills	\$0.00
Abatement	0.008 mills	\$2,614
<hr/>		
TOTAL MILL LEVY	27.924 mills	\$9,124,782

Section 2. Business Services is directed to deliver a certified copy of this Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners of TELLER COUNTY no later than December 15, 2022.

ADOPTED the 14th day of December 2022. WOODLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2



President, Board of Education
Woodland Park School District Re-2

12/14/22

Date

Board Minutes

CDE Mill Levy Certification Form

December 14, 2022

ADDENDUM B

3020

Primary County

TELLER

District Name

WOODLAND PARK

Certification of Mill Levies

Property Tax Year 2022

Auto Populate with Cell G2 = District Code

Data Pulled from Calculation Worksheet

Pulls info from Calc Worksheet Tab and Hidden Tabs

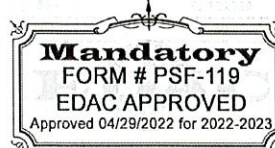
CATEGORY		School District Final Mill Certified: December 15, 2021	Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Mill Levy Estimated as of August 25, 2022	School District Final Mill Levy Certified as of December 15, 2022	Estimated School District Revenue from Mill Levy December 15, 2022
Assessed Valuation	August Column Comments				
Gross Assessed Valuation	Provided by County Assessor	\$343,939,930	\$336,522,130	\$336,437,600	
Tax Increment Financing	Provided by Assessor (may not be included)	(\$9,905,429)	(\$9,665,589)	(\$9,665,589)	
Net Assessed Valuation	Provided by County Assessor	\$334,034,501	\$326,856,541	\$326,772,011	
Abatements (Total across all counties)	Provided by County Assessor	\$243,414	\$2,696	\$2,696	
1. Mill Levy per HB20-1418	Fixed for FY23-Both Aug & Dec	27.000	27.000	27.000	
1a. HB20-1418 Tax Credit	Fixed for FY23-Both Aug & Dec	3.450	2.450	2.450	
1b. HB20-1418 Net Mill Levy (amt collected by county)	Fixed for FY23-Both Aug & Dec	23.550	24.550	24.550	\$8,022,253
2. Categorical Buyout	ONLY FULLY LOCALLY FUNDED Based on Aug 25 NAV	0.000	0.000	0.000	\$0
3. Total Program Reserve Fund	ONLY FULLY LOCALLY FUNDED Based on Aug 25 NAV	0.000	0.000	0.000	\$0
4. Total Program Mill		23.550	24.550	24.550	\$8,022,253
5. Overrides:					
a. Hold harmless		0.000	Not Provided	0.000	\$0
b. Excess hold harmless		0.000	Not Provided	0.000	\$0
Voter Approved Override					
5c. Total Voter Approved Override		3.293	Not Provided	3.366	\$1,099,915
6. Abatement		0.729	Not Provided	0.008	\$2,614
7. Total General Fund		27.572		27.924	\$9,124,782
	Check Figure Must be Zero	0.000		0.000	\$0
8. Bond Redemption Fund		0.000	Not Provided	0.000	\$0
9. Transportation Fund		0.000	Not Provided	0.000	\$0
10. Special Building and Technology		0.000	Not Provided	0.000	\$0
11. Supplemental capital construction, technology, & maintenance Fund		0.000	Not Provided	0.000	\$0
12. Other (Loan, Charter School,)		0.000	Not Provided	0.000	\$0
Details for #12 other					
13. Total		27.572		27.924	\$9,124,782
	Check Figure Must be Zero	0.000		0.000	\$0
Information provided by state for certification to county treasurer:					
No Need to Calculate with change in Dec AV from Aug 25					
14. Estimated Full Funding Mill Levy	Fixed for FY23-Both Aug & Dec, Based off Aug 25's NAV	55.729	63.577	63.577	
15. Projected Gross Marketing from State (Before budget stabilization)	Fixed for FY23-Both Aug & Dec, Based off Aug 25's NAV	\$10,749,948	\$12,756,227	\$12,756,227	

Mona Larsen

Form completed by

719.686.2018

Phone Number

Submit Data via SmartSheet no
later than December 15, 2022<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7c556e3131d64314a46bf0194c70ec4b>

ADDENDUM C

Good evening Board of Directors and Co-interim Superintendents,

First off, I want to recognize our middle school staff as they have had a week that has been filled with sorrow and pain as they have lost 7th grader this past weekend. This has been felt across our district because this student also attended Gateway and Summit Elementary. I have watched our team come together and provide support to the students first and foremost, and then to each other. There is no other group of professionals that comes together this well in times of crisis.

Additionally tonight, I want to thank Tina and Del for their tireless efforts. They have put in time and effort into building a culture of excellence this year. They have earned the trust of the staff and inspired us to be great. "Vulnerability is not winning or losing; it's having the courage to show up and be seen when we have no control over the outcome." These two continue to show up and continue to be seen. They have integrity. And they have built a culture of community that is better together.

Good evening Board of Directors and Co-interim Superintendents,

I need to be a little brave and vulnerable tonight. There are some things that might get said tonight that hurt, but still need to be said. If you want change, the only one you can start with is yourself.

The culture of a district starts from the top down. The superintendent of a school district really affects the culture of the district more than most people realize. The superintendent sets the tone for the administrator team, which in turn sets the culture for each individual school and the students that attend there. First semester this year has been absolutely fantastic in each of our buildings for our staff, students, and community. However, since finding out that during a survey, a vast majority of the parents of Woodland Park schools wanted to keep Del and Tina as the interim superintendents for second semester, and a lightning quick application period and hiring process with only one finalist named, I am here to give you a clear and accurate pulse on the current condition of what the staff of WPSD are experiencing.

I need to be a little brave and vulnerable tonight. There are some things that might get said tonight that hurt, but still need to be said. If you want change, the only one you can start with is yourself.

With any change, there is fear, whether the change ends up being for better or for worse. When we keep being told that an "agent of change" is being brought in, the message that is sent is that the staff and students are not performing well. However, the data speaks otherwise. This district is the only district to have improved in every composite and total SAT scores in this region over the past 3 years, from 2019 to 2022, and that includes every district down the hill including academic powerhouses of Cheyenne Mountain and Academy District 20, not to mention Manitou, D11, and D49.

First semester this year has been absolutely fantastic in each of our buildings for our staff, students, and community. However, since finding out that during a survey, a vast majority of the parents of Woodland Park schools wanted to keep Del and Tina as the interim superintendents for second semester, and a lightning quick application period and hiring process with only one finalist named, I am here to give you a clear and accurate pulse on the current condition of what the staff of WPSD are experiencing.

When the application for superintendent no longer includes any requirement of a degree in education and the only finalist doesn't have a degree beyond a Bachelors, that devalues our educators. Many educators are educated at a Master's level. We want someone who knows our craft, and values public education. Someone that supports us and empowers us to be great. We want some who can lead us to be better teachers and continue to improve.

Right now, it is obvious to us teachers that the application period was too short and the net was not cast wide enough to get enough quality candidates for being ready to lead WPSD. If the board was only able to name one finalist that they could support, then the applicant pool was too small. At best, this is bad business practice. This would never be accepted by a successful private sector company. At worst, this is not consistent with American ideology. It is an American ideal to provide healthy competition to bring out the best of the candidates and not create a monopoly. This board needs to postpone signing an interim superintendent and reopen the application during the normal superintendent hiring period to draw more qualified applicants. This would allow the board to lead by example and give a demonstration of what it means to be a good American citizen.

We, as educators, want to know that our students will be safe, and are treated with respect. Our nation was founded by a group of radicals that said enough was enough. They wrote a constitution and stood up together to form a nation of unity so that everyone would have rights. All of us – educators, administrators, school staff, students, parents and the community – deserve a voice. We should all be asked to work in collaboration with the Woodland Park School Board to make decisions that impact our district. The only group asked to weigh in on such a heavy decision was DAC, who only as recently as two days ago agreed to have one email address for input communication to them. A republic has its voting members voted in by the public and not appointed by some executive branch. This DAC does not represent a republic, which troubles us all deeply as your purpose statement and core values say that, "WPSD exists to establish a common foundation of knowledge that cultivates educated citizens who appreciate and contribute to this great American Republic.

This morning, I watched a lot of students exercise their freedoms granted by this same constitution. They are seeking the opportunity to be valued by this board and have their voice heard. Your core values state, "We believe in ...District philosophies that align with parental choice and build systems oriented to parental expectations and values." To you, only their parents' opinions matter. Students should have a say in their own education. After all, it is their life they need to get ready for. And by the way, an overwhelming majority, 96% of respondents to the survey, of the community-parents and district staff alike- support our current co-superintendents, Del Garrick and Tina Cassens to finish out this school year. Also in that survey, the number one character traits desired by the community was instructional expertise, which both Del and Tina possess.

Teachers always want to be able to focus on our job and our students. Right now, teachers are distracted and feel powerless to be able to do the job they want to do, support students. Teaching is a career, not a temporary stop on the way to another job. Students succeed when teachers are well-trained, trusted and given the opportunity to be leaders in their schools and classrooms. Teachers absolutely put kids first, but it's really difficult to do that if you have a board majority that continues to put their personal and political agendas before kids.

Students, parents, educators and community residents of all cultural backgrounds should feel safe, welcome, respected and valued here in *Woodland Park School District*. With the process that you have chosen for picking the next superintendent, teachers don't feel supported by this board. It feels like you are putting your personal and political agenda before the current needs of our district. We need to maintain the course that Del and Tina have already established this year and pursue a new superintendent during the normal hiring timeline. Del and Tina have been unifying our district to make us better together. Please afford us the opportunity as educators to finish this school year better together.



The Colorado Universal Preschool Program (UPK) Fact Sheet

The Colorado Universal Preschool (UPK) Program launches in the 2023-24 school year. As the Colorado Department of Early Childhood moves quickly to stand up the new program, this fact sheet will help the media understand what we will deliver for Coloradans now and what will be determined in the future.

“We are thrilled to announce that rules adopted by the Department of Early Childhood and informed by the Rules Advisory Council, Colorado’s voter approved universal preschool program will now save families of four year olds \$6,000 per year and are streamlining the process to help families and parents save money while reducing paperwork and improving access to early learning for Colorado’s kids.” - Governor Jared Polis.

Every child in Colorado will have access to a minimum of half-day preschool (15 hours/week) in the year before they are eligible to enter kindergarten subject to provider participation and capacity.

- ❖ Statute guarantees a minimum of 10 hours of universal care, but Department rules have expanded that coverage to at least 15 hours to offer all families the option of half-day preschool in the year before they are eligible to enter kindergarten
- ❖ UPK is voluntary - parents know what is best for their children and can decide whether to participate, as can preschool providers
- ❖ The average cost savings to families for half-day preschool will be around \$6,000 per year, while average cost savings for part-time preschool will be around \$4,800
- ❖ In some cases, the half-day preschool programming funded by the state will move families toward full-day care, or assist in meeting the hours of care that are needed by a family
- ❖ Statute makes clear that UPK will be available only during the school year
- ❖ Providers do not need to adjust their hours of care to participate in UPK and can offer more than the funded hours.
- ❖ Statute has designated Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs) to coordinate UPK at the local level

UPK is a mixed-delivery system, empowering families to choose the best setting for their child

- ❖ Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to choose the preschool setting for their child from the participating preschool providers
- ❖ Any licensed child care provider meeting state requirements can participate in Universal Preschool. This includes school-based, community-based, employer-based, or home-based care settings that are licensed by the State
- ❖ There will not be a single required curriculum, but rather a resource library of curricula, which will be approved by the Department of Early Childhood
- ❖ Providers will be able to submit curriculum products that they have been, or would like to use, for approval and inclusion in the resource library.
- ❖ Licensed faith-based preschools can participate in UPK, with the condition that approved curricula will be utilized and state funds cannot be applied during hours of religious programming

Children three years of age, or younger than three in a school district with a waiver to serve children younger than three, will be eligible for UPK if they meet at least one qualifying factor below. Children who meet at least one of the qualifying factors below will qualify for 15 additional hours during in the school year before they are eligible to enter kindergarten to achieve full-day preschool service, subject to available appropriations:

- ❖ A child who lives in a low-income household (270% of the 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines)
- ❖ A child who is a dual language learner and the native language spoken in the child’s home is a language other than English, or the child’s native language is not English
- ❖ A child with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- ❖ A child who is currently in a foster care home or in non-certified kinship care
- ❖ A child who is identified as homeless



A multilingual UPK application, available online, will launch in January 2023

- ❖ While the application will be limited to UPK in year-one, additional early childhood and family strengthening services will be added starting in the 2023-24 fiscal year to create a “one-stop shop” for families to apply for state-funded early childhood services
- ❖ The application will remain open throughout the year.
- ❖ Using the application, families will be able to search for participating providers

As of July 1, 2023, the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) will become unified with the Universal Preschool Program

- ❖ This means CPP, as it is currently known, will cease to exist at that time
- ❖ Parents of three- and four- year olds who would have qualified for CPP assistance are expected to qualify for comparable or increased assistance through the Universal Preschool Program
- ❖ There is a one year “hold harmless” funding provision for school districts, charter schools, and community-based providers that served CPP children: CDEC will pay the difference if school districts receive total preschool funding in the 2023-24 school year that is less than funding received in the 2022-23 school year

Which providers are choosing to opt in to participate in UPK

- ❖ Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs) are currently working with providers in their communities to collect this information
- ❖ Providers will begin signing provider agreements with their LCOs by the end of November
- ❖ By the launch of the UPK application in January 2023, information on participating providers will be public

UPK will support high-quality services for children

- ❖ The rulemaking process for quality standards will take place during the first half of 2023
- ❖ Quality standards must at a minimum reflect national and community-informed best practices with regard to school readiness, academic and cognitive development, healthy environments, social-emotional learning, and child and family outcomes.