

**M E M O R A N D U M**

April 24, 2012

TO: Health and Human Services Committee  
Education Committee

FROM: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Preschool Update and Status of Child Care Subsidy Programs**

Today the Health and Human Services and Education Committees will have an update on preschool services in the County and discuss the status of State and County child care subsidy programs. The following individuals are expected to participate in the discussion:

- Kate Garvey, Chief, Children, Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Patsy Evans, Program Manager for Head Start, Community Action Agency (DHHS)
- Janine Bacquie, Director, Division of Early Childhood Programs and Services, MCPS
- Renata Claros, Senior Director, Early Childhood Education, Centro Nia
- Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Maryland Director, Centro Nia
- Nuri Funes, Family Child Care Provider
- Donya Paul, Parent

The purpose of today's worksession is (1) to receive an update on preschool services in Montgomery County and (2) to discuss concerns related to the State and local child care subsidy programs with key stakeholders.

**I. PRESCHOOL SERVICES UPDATE**

**A. Kindergarten Readiness Data**

The State has released its kindergarten readiness findings for the 2010-2011 school year. The data shows that the County is making progress in preparing children for kindergarten. **The County has achieved a 7% increase in kindergarten children fully ready for school from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012.** Only two other jurisdictions in the State achieved a greater increase during this time period.

The following chart shows the changes in the percentage of children fully ready for school since 2001-2002 by subgroup (see also ©1-6):

Subgroup	2001-2002	2010-2011	2011-2012	% Change from 2001-2002	% Change from 2010-2011
Composite	61%	74%	81%	+20%	+7%
African American	54%	69%	77%	+23%	+8%
Hispanic	46%	63%	71%	+17%	+8%
Low-income	46%	63%	71%	+17%	+8%
English Language Learners	51%	61%	71%	+20%	+10%
Children with Disabilities	24%	47%	52%		+5%

**Despite the rate increase, the County's composite result of 81% of students fully school ready remains below the State average of 83%. Moreover, only five jurisdictions in the State have lower composite results. (See ©7)**

Montgomery County full school readiness data by prior care is provided below.

- Child care center-85%
- Family child care-77%
- Head Start-72%
- Home/informal care-70%
- Non-public Nursery-91%
- PreK-82%

The data show that non-public nursery care has the highest school readiness rates, followed by child care centers and pre-kindergarten. The lowest rates are attributable to home/informal care and Head Start. **The Committees may be interested in exploring the factors that might contribute to the lower rate for the Head Start program.**

**Council staff understands that few Counties compare to Montgomery County in size, i.e., Prince George's, Baltimore and Anne Arundel, and the County has the largest percentage of English Language Learners in the state. Presumably, these factors influence the kindergarten readiness results, but they also underscore the challenges facing the County in ensuring that all of the County's children are ready to learn and have the best possible opportunities moving forward.**

## **B. Head Start and Pre-kindergarten Update**

The County has a range of programs based in MCPS and in the community that support preschool education and services. This packet briefly summarizes the programs and their current enrollment. A chart prepared jointly by DHHS and MCPS at ©18-21

details the service and cost elements of the Community-Based Head Start and Pre-K programs with corresponding information for MCPS programs. Other back up information provided by MCPS may be found at ©15-17.

**Council staff notes that overall, the County is increasing its publicly-funded preschool education services. Most of the growth has been in the public school setting** with increased slots for pre-kindergarten for income-eligible children, the proposed shift in FY13 of Head Start slots from a community-based provider to the school-based program, and increased slots proposed for FY13 at the new Montessori Charter school.

### *1. Head Start Services*

DHHS administers the Head Start program, which is funded primarily with Federal funds and served 648 children in FY12. For FY12, 30 slots were allocated to community-based providers and 618 slots were allocated to MCPS.

- **MCPS Traditional Head Start:** MCPS is currently providing Head Start services to 618 children in full and part-day programs. There are 16 traditional, part-day classes consisting of a 3.25 hour educational component and a robust social service component of supportive wrap-around services. The average cost per child for the part-day program is approximately \$7,768.

Three Head Start classes serve mixed-age students, ages three and four, and two classes serve three year olds only. There are currently a total of 41 three-year-old children enrolled in Head Start classes.

In FY13, 10 slots will shift from a community-based Head Start provider to MCPS resulting in a total of 628 slots.

- **MCPS All-Day Head Start:** MCPS also offers a full-day Head Start model in 17 classes serving 340 children. The full-day model includes additional time for literacy and mathematics and increased opportunities for social interaction and oral language and vocabulary development. The marginal cost per child of the full-day model over the regular head start rate listed above is approximately \$3,780.
- **Community-Based Head Start:** FY12 funding for Head Start services through DHHS supports two community based Head Start sites (Montgomery College and Silver Spring Presbyterian Church Children's Center) targeted to serve a total of 30 children. In FY12, the programs are serving 23 students. The child care provider is responsible for the educational piece, and DHHS provides general contract support for costs such as space, staff support, substitutes, and materials. The cost per child of these community-based programs ranges from \$9,303 to \$9,907. Wrap-around child care has been provided through child care subsidy funding

The Community Action Agency and Head Start Council have recommended shifting the 10 slots allotted for Silver Spring Presbyterian Church Children's Center to MCPS in FY13 because of various program challenges.

## 2. *Pre-kindergarten Services*

- **MCPS Pre-Kindergarten:** In FY12, the school system was funded at a level to serve 2085 children in 104 pre-kindergarten. MCPS is currently serving 2,194 students classes, 109 children above the funded amount. Two pre-kindergarten classes serve three-year old students exclusively.

MCPS is providing services to additional students over the funded level to comply with the requirements of the Bridge to Excellence Act of 2002. The law mandates that local school systems make pre-kindergarten services available for low-income children (185% of poverty) whose families request the service. The program consists of a 2.5 hour educational component and health and social services. The estimated average cost per child is \$4773.

In FY13, the Board of Education has recommended funding for three additional prekindergarten classes for a total of 107 classes to serve 2,145 children.

- **Community-based Pre-K -- Centro Nia:** For the FY12, the Council approved recommended \$325,706 in County general funds to support a community-based pre-kindergarten program. The same amount is proposed for FY13. Centro Nia provides a comprehensive, community-based, year-round pre-kindergarten program for 8 hours daily to 40 three and four year-olds. Wrap-around child care is available through additional child care subsidy funding. The average funding per child for this model is \$8,143 per child. The organization currently has a waitlist of 300 preschoolers living in Montgomery County.

## 3. *Other Publicly-funded Early Childhood Education programs*

- **Montessori Charter School:** In FY13, there has \$274,242 budgeted for a Community Montessori Charter School. It is expected the school will serve 70 three and four-year old children.
- **Universal Preschool Pilot Programs (State-funded)**

MSDE has established 11 Preschool for All pilot sites as pre-kindergarten programs developed in partnerships with local education agencies and community child care centers. Two pilot sites are located in Montgomery County and are described below. See also ©22-26. State funding is anticipated to continue for the two programs in FY13.

**Centro Nia:** The program received a Preschool for All funding to serve 20 children for 6.5 hours of programming. The Center offers extended day services for an additional 3.5 hours to accommodate working parents.

**Peppertree Center, Inc.:** The Peppertree Center is located in the Upcounty Regional Services Center in Germantown. The center has received Preschool for All funding to serve 18 children for 6.5 hours of programming. The center provides parents with before and after care options. Kindergarten readiness data for the program compares favorably to the County's rates in the different prior care settings. See ©27.

- **Early Head Start**

Centro Nia and Family Services Agency have received direct federal grants to provide Early Head Start services. This funding does not pass through the Community Action Agency, the County's grantee agency.

## II. STATUS OF CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

### ***Child Care Subsidy Waitlist***

The State's Purchase of Care (POC) and the County's Working Parents Assistance (WPA) programs are the two child care subsidy programs that serve Montgomery County residents. In recent discussions about the status of the child care subsidy programs, the Committees learned that the State instituted a waitlist for the POC program on February 28, 2011, and as a result of growing demand, the WPA program implemented a waitlist effective on July 1, 2011. Committee members also heard about the substantial co-pays required of families to participate in the WPA program and expressed the need to revisit childcare subsidy policies when the economy rebounds.

The following table shows the increase in the WPA and POC waitlists from August 31, 2011 to March 2, 2012.

	POC		WPA	
As of 8/31/11	670 families	1,116 children	39 families	56 children
As of 2/29/12	1,152 families	1,904 children	94 families	147 children

### ***State Reduction to Purchase of Care Child Care Subsidy Program***

There is a \$9 million reduction to the child care subsidy program in the State budget. The Maryland State Department of Education has not announced how the reduction will impact local jurisdictions or expand the POC waitlist. DHHS concludes that a WPA waitlist will likely remain in existence with a continuing POC waitlist. The program, however, may reach a level through attrition where the program can serve a new family each time a family leaves the program.

### ***Impact of Child Care Subsidy Waitlist on Children, Families, and Providers***

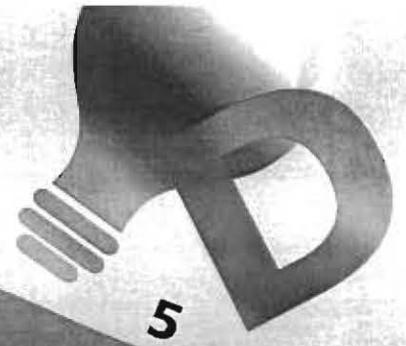
The lack of funding for child care subsidies affects the ability of families to access quality child care, which in turn may affect the educational outcomes for children when

they arrive in kindergarten and as they progress through school. The Committees will hear from key stakeholders, including family and center-based child care providers, about how the waitlists for child care subsidies is affecting them.

**Council staff is also concerned about the decreasing trend in community-based preschool slots and how the programs are being impacted by the lack of availability of child care subsidies.** These programs are able to provide wrap-around child care services made possible through subsidies that accommodate the schedules of working parents.

**The Council may be interested in providing additional funding for child care subsidy programs in order to make quality childcare options available to low-income families.** DHHS reports that the cost to take 100 children off the WPA waitlist would be \$46,700 per month or 560,400 for the entire year. **The cost to eliminate the waitlist as of March 2012 is \$889,168.**

Council staff notes that determining an exact funding target is difficult because the WPA waitlist is a moving target. The Department is initially screening individuals before they are put on the waitlist which should provide a greater level accuracy than its previous experience with the WPA waitlist, when individuals were not initially screened. Initial screening, however, does not guarantee that individuals on the waitlist will continue to qualify for the program when subsidies become available. In addition, a certain percentage of families that qualify for subsidies will not use them because they cannot afford the co-pays. Nevertheless, it is fairly certain that the numbers of families seeking WPA subsidies will grow if the POC waitlist continues.

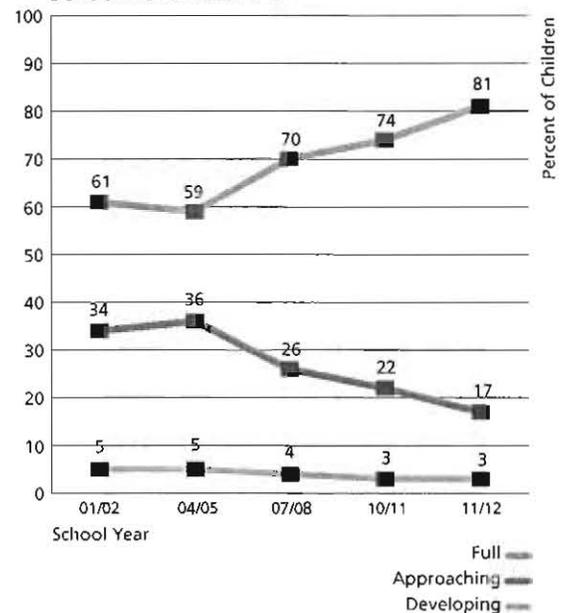


81% of kindergarteners are school-ready, up from 61% in 2001-2002 and 74% in 2010-2011.

### quick take on school readiness

- Montgomery County saw a 25-point increase from 2001-2002 in Language and Literacy (72% fully ready for 2011-2012), a 23-point improvement in Mathematical Thinking (76% fully ready), and a 31-point jump in Scientific Thinking (63% fully ready).
- 77% of African-American children are now fully school-ready — a 23-point readiness gain from 2001-2002 and 8 points more than last year.
- The percentage of Hispanic children who are school-ready rose from 46% in 2001-2002 and 63% last year to 71% in 2011-2012.
- 71% of kindergarteners from low-income households (as indicated by Free and Reduced Price Meal status) rose to full readiness – up from 46% in 2001-2002 and 63% in 2010-2011.
- The percentage of English Language Learners who are fully school-ready grew from 51% for 2001-2002 and 61% for 2010-2011 to 71% in 2011-2012.
- Children with disabilities made substantial progress: 52% fully ready, a 28-point gain from 2001-2002 and 5 points more than last year.
- Kindergarteners who were enrolled in public PreK programs in the year prior to starting school are highly prepared (82% fully ready, up from 55% in 2001-2002).

School Readiness Data



#### Population Data, MD Dept of Planning, 2010

Children < 5 (age 0-4) 67,040

#### School Enrollment MSDE, School Year 2011-2012

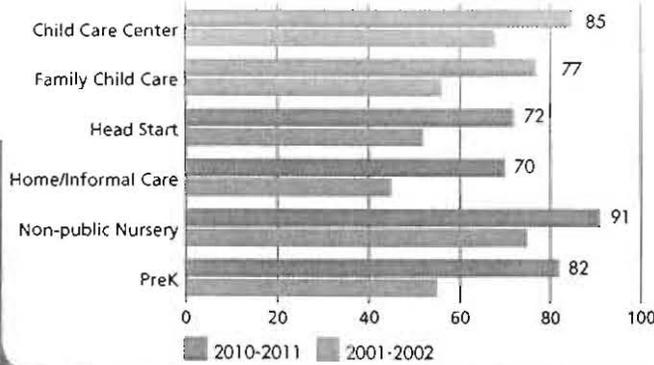
Kindergarten Students	11,419
Kindergarten Ethnicity	
• American Indian	0.3%
• Asian	13.5%
• African American	19.1%
• Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%
• White	31.2%
• Hispanic	30.6%
• Two or More Races	5.2%
Kindergarteners by Subgroup	
• Children with Disabilities	7.9%
• English Language Learners	34.5%
• Free/Reduced Priced Meals	37.8%
PreK Students	3,627
• Full-Day Program	13.8%
• Half-Day Program	86.2%

Note: May not total 100% due to rounding.

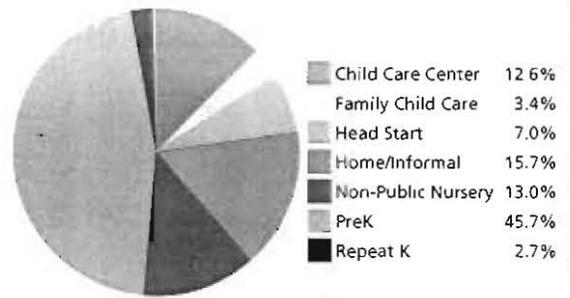


Prior Care Data

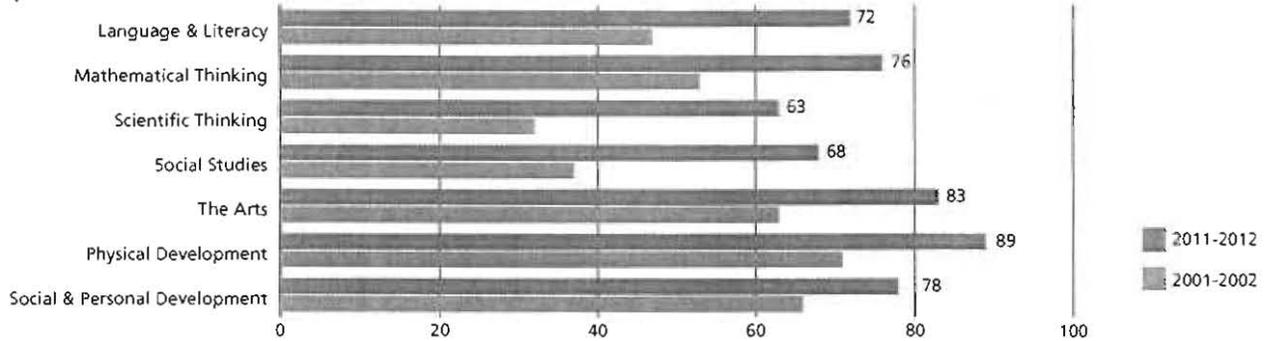
Full School Readiness by Prior Care



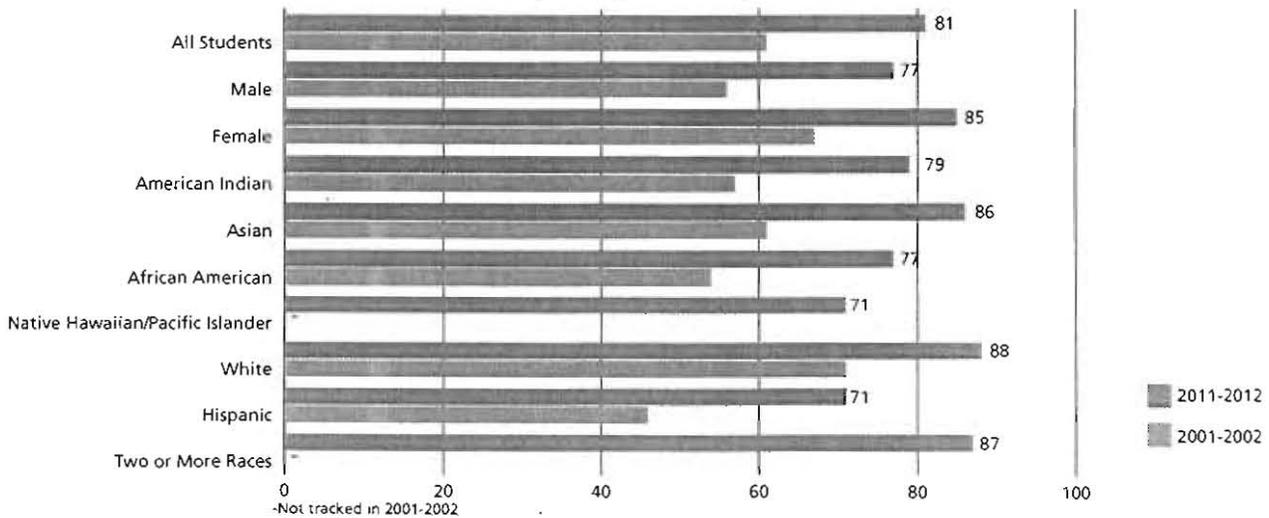
Prior Care Enrollment, School Year 2010-2011



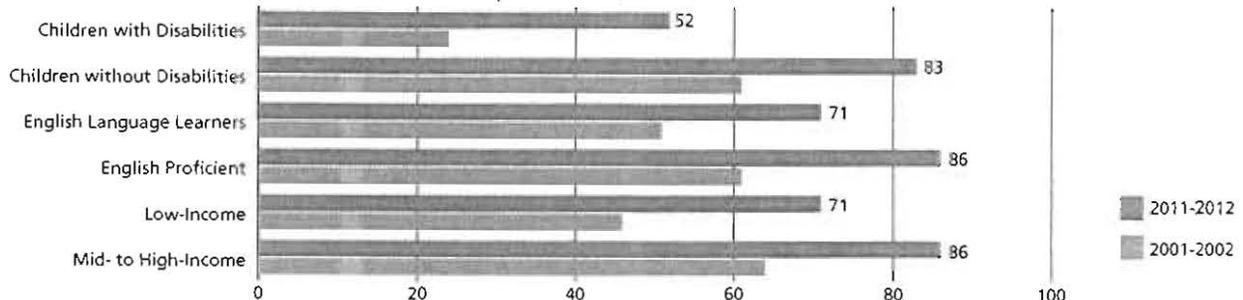
Full School Readiness by Domain



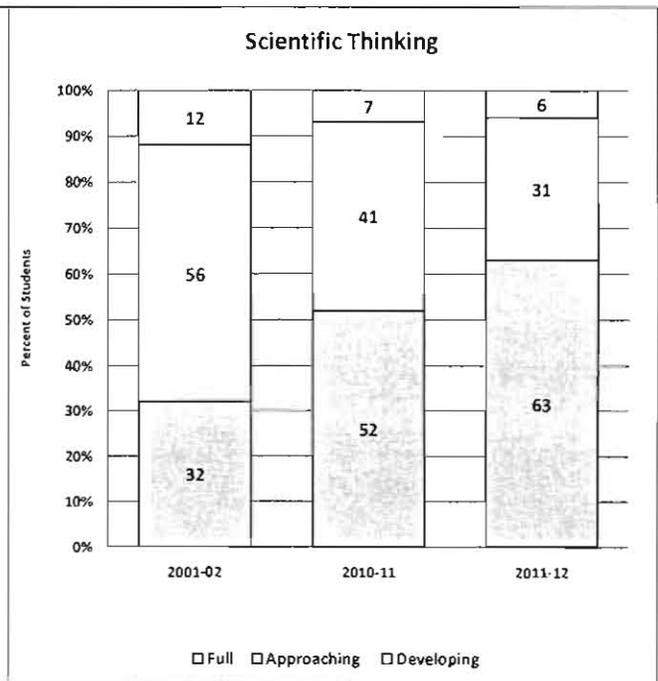
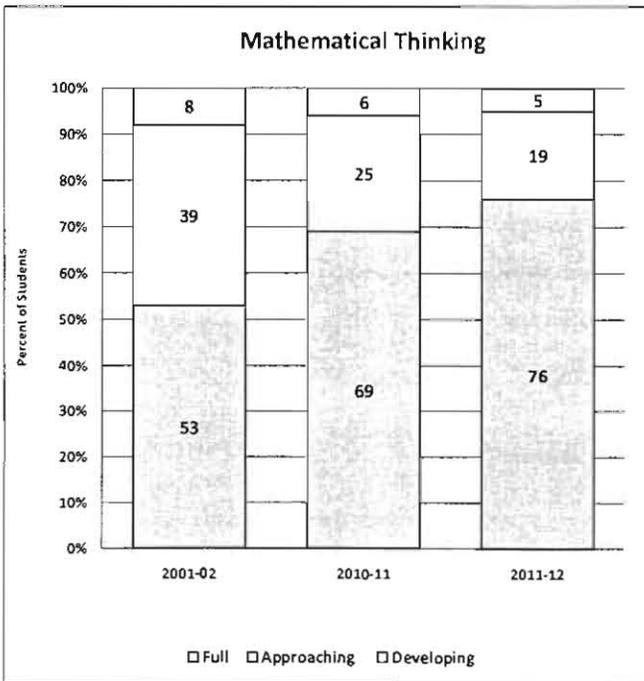
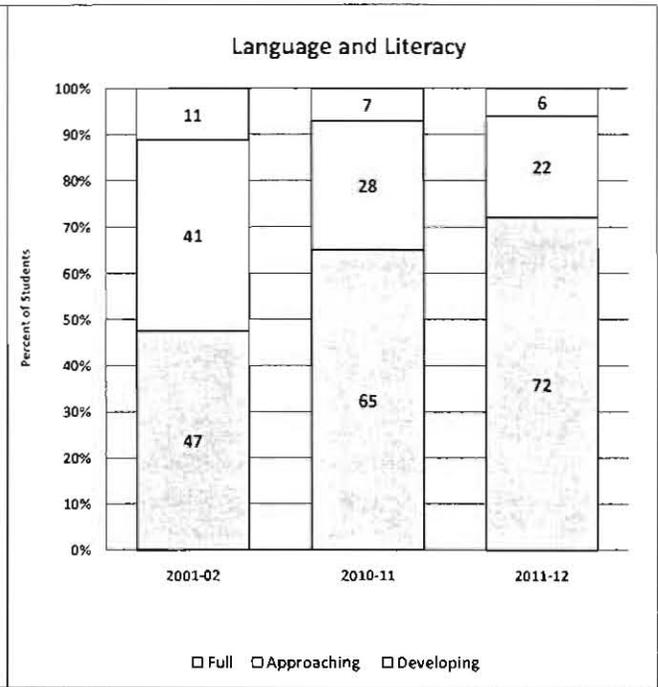
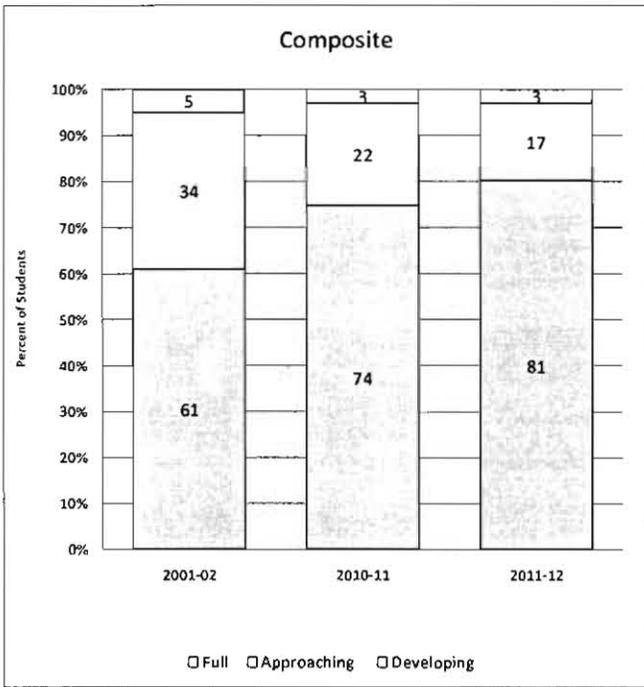
Full School Readiness by Gender & Ethnicity



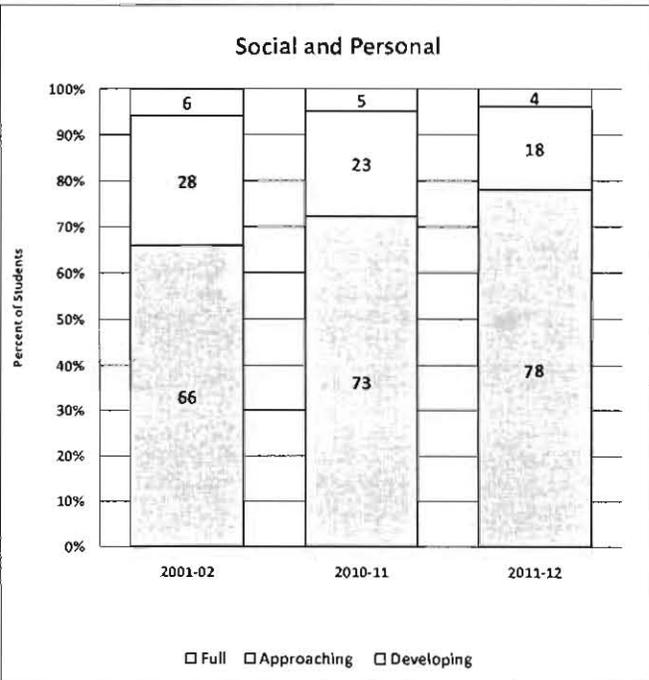
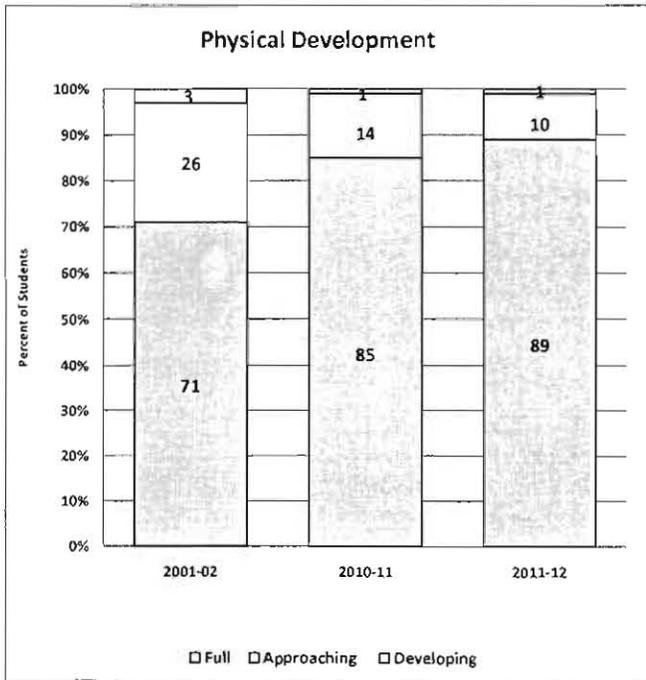
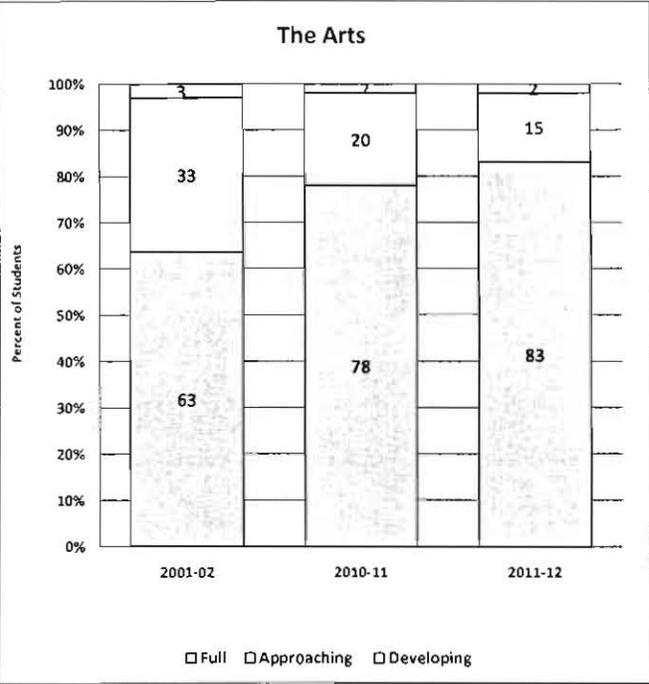
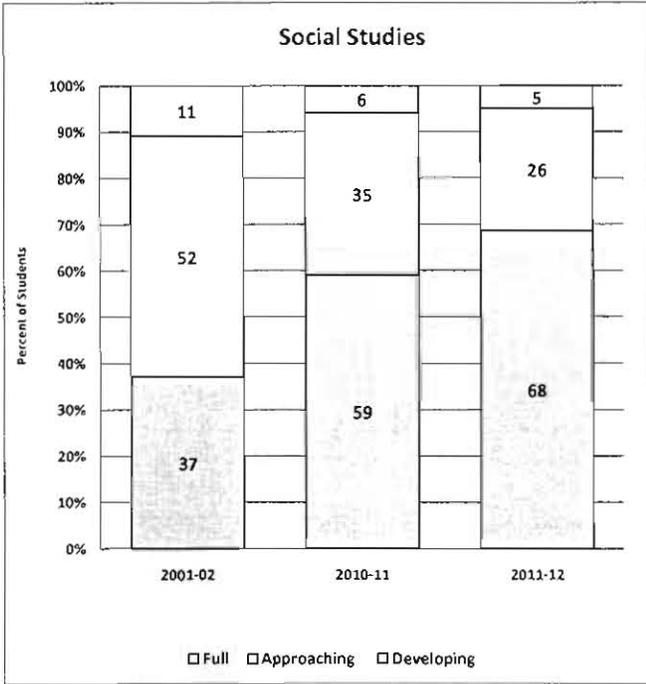
Full School Readiness by Subgroup



**MMSR Kindergarten Assessment 2011-2012**  
**Trends for Composite and Domain Results**  
**Montgomery County**



**MMSR Kindergarten Assessment 2011-2012**  
**Trends for Composite and Domain Results**  
**Montgomery County**



**Montgomery County - Percentage of Kindergarten Students**

	Social and Personal			Language and Literacy			Mathematical Thinking			Scientific Thinking			Social Studies			The Arts			Physical Development			Composite					
	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing			
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>																											
American Indian/Alaskan Native	71	24	5	63	32	5	82	18	0	66	29	5	71	24	5	82	13	5	84	13	3				79	16	5
Asian	83	15	2	80	17	3	86	12	2	70	26	4	74	22	4	86	13	1	93	6	1				86	12	2
African American	73	23	5	69	25	6	72	23	5	57	36	7	64	31	5	82	16	2	86	12	2				77	20	3
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	71	29	0	71	29	0	71	29	0	57	43	0	71	29	0	85	14	0	86	14	0				71	29	0
White	83	15	3	83	14	3	87	11	2	76	22	3	80	17	3	87	11	2	91	8	1				88	10	1
Hispanic	75	21	4	57	32	11	63	28	9	50	40	10	56	35	9	78	19	3	87	11	1				71	25	4
Two or More Races (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	80	17	3	82	15	3	84	14	2	70	27	4	74	22	4	88	10	2	91	8	1				87	11	2
<b>Gender</b>																											
Male	71	23	5	69	24	7	75	20	5	62	31	7	65	28	7	78	19	3	85	13	2				77	20	4
Female	86	13	2	75	20	5	78	18	4	64	31	5	71	25	4	90	10	1	93	6	1				85	14	2
<b>Prior Care</b>																											
Child Care Center	76	22	3	79	19	2	84	14	2	69	28	3	73	24	3	87	12	1	90	9	1				85	14	1
Family Child Care	74	22	4	65	30	5	71	24	6	54	41	5	61	34	5	80	18	2	86	12	2				77	20	3
Head Start	72	25	3	62	31	8	67	27	7	51	41	8	58	36	6	79	19	2	67	12	1				72	24	3
Home / Informal Care	76	19	5	56	31	13	61	28	10	51	38	11	57	33	10	79	18	3	87	11	2				70	25	5
Non-public Nursery	86	12	2	85	13	2	88	11	1	77	22	1	81	17	1	89	10	1	93	6	1				91	9	1
Pre-Kindergarten	79	17	4	74	21	5	78	18	4	64	30	6	70	25	5	84	15	2	89	10	2				82	16	3
<b>Special Education</b>																											
No	80	17	3	74	21	5	79	18	4	65	30	5	71	25	4	85	13	1	91	8	1				83	15	2
Yes	53	33	14	44	38	18	52	33	15	39	38	23	44	35	21	60	31	9	63	29	8				52	34	14
<b>English Language Learners</b>																											
No	80	17	3	80	16	4	83	14	3	70	26	4	75	21	4	86	13	2	90	9	1				86	12	2
Yes	75	22	4	56	34	10	64	29	8	49	41	10	55	36	9	79	18	2	87	11	1				71	26	4
<b>Free and Reduced Price Meals</b>																											
No	81	16	3	81	16	3	84	13	2	71	25	4	76	21	4	86	12	2	91	8	1				86	12	2
Yes	73	22	5	58	32	10	64	28	8	50	40	10	56	35	8	79	18	2	86	12	2				71	25	4
Aggregated Data	78	18	4	72	22	6	76	19	5	63	31	6	68	26	5	83	15	2	89	10	1				81	17	3

\* = fewer than 5

May not total 100% due to rounding.

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**Montgomery County - Number of Kindergarten Students**

	Social and Personal			Language and Literacy			Mathematical Thinking			Scientific Thinking			Social Studies			The Arts			Physical Development			Composite		
	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing	Full	Approaching	Developing
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>																								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	27	9	2	24	12	2	31	7	0	25	11	2	27	9	2	31	5	2	32	5	1	30	6	2
Asian	1,256	224	37	1,214	257	46	1,299	187	31	1,061	402	54	1,121	341	55	1,302	194	21	1,409	96	12	1,312	181	24
African American	1,565	485	103	1,484	544	125	1,546	497	110	1,222	780	151	1,374	665	113	1,770	343	40	1,851	269	33	1,657	424	72
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	5	2	0	5	2	0	5	2	0	4	3	0	5	2	0	6	1	0	6	1	0	5	2	0
White	2,921	516	93	2,935	492	103	3,063	405	62	2,667	764	99	2,817	605	107	3,078	398	54	3,198	282	50	3,120	361	49
Hispanic	2,573	729	149	1,969	1,105	377	2,190	952	309	1,710	1,391	350	1,945	1,204	302	2,702	659	90	3,014	388	49	2,453	850	148
Two or More Races (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	477	98	18	489	88	16	498	84	11	413	159	21	441	131	21	523	61	9	539	49	5	516	66	11
<b>Gender</b>																								
Male	4,215	1,386	308	4,080	1,415	414	4,433	1,163	313	3,651	1,840	418	3,897	1,625	387	4,596	1,145	168	5,035	762	112	4,533	1,162	214
Female	4,609	677	94	4,040	1,085	255	4,199	971	210	3,451	1,670	259	3,833	1,334	213	4,816	516	48	5,014	328	38	4,560	728	92
<b>Prior Care</b>																								
Child Care Center	1,065	304	40	1,111	266	32	1,188	196	25	975	396	38	1,027	345	37	1,225	168	16	1,268	131	10	1,197	198	14
Family Child Care	283	84	14	249	113	19	269	90	22	206	157	18	232	131	18	305	68	8	328	47	6	295	76	10
Head Start	562	192	26	483	238	59	521	208	51	399	318	83	449	264	47	615	151	14	879	94	7	565	191	24
Home / Informal Care	1,334	342	82	980	544	234	1,079	500	179	889	673	196	999	584	175	1,396	310	52	1,535	189	34	1,236	436	85
Non-public Nursery	1,260	175	23	1,242	193	23	1,288	159	11	1,125	315	18	1,187	251	20	1,298	143	17	1,359	88	11	1,323	126	9
Pre-Kindergarten	4,044	887	202	3,794	1,068	271	4,012	904	217	3,276	1,547	310	3,592	1,269	272	4,291	749	93	4,560	496	77	4,190	798	145
<b>Special Education</b>																								
No	8,356	1,767	277	7,732	2,161	507	8,168	1,840	392	6,758	3,168	474	7,341	2,645	414	8,878	1,382	140	9,488	834	78	8,633	1,589	178
Yes	488	296	125	388	339	162	454	294	131	344	342	203	389	314	186	534	279	76	561	256	72	460	301	128
<b>English Language Learners</b>																								
No	5,924	1,225	255	5,935	1,193	276	6,157	1,025	222	5,190	1,909	305	5,560	1,559	265	6,335	944	125	6,651	649	104	6,343	897	164
Yes	2,900	838	147	2,185	1,307	393	2,475	1,109	301	1,912	1,601	372	2,150	1,400	335	3,077	717	91	3,398	441	46	2,750	993	142
<b>Free and Reduced Price Meals</b>																								
No	5,690	1,123	209	5,653	1,132	237	5,913	945	164	4,985	1,784	253	5,323	1,453	246	6,036	873	113	6,364	575	83	6,065	827	130
Yes	3,134	940	193	2,467	1,368	432	2,719	1,189	359	2,117	1,726	424	2,407	1,506	354	3,376	788	103	3,685	515	67	3,028	1,063	176
<b>Aggregated Data</b>	8,824	2,063	402	8,120	2,500	669	8,632	2,134	523	7,102	3,510	677	7,730	2,959	600	9,412	1,661	216	10,049	1,090	150	9,093	1,890	306

\* = fewer than 5

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**MARYLAND MODEL FOR SCHOOL READINESS  
COMPOSITE RESULTS BY JURISDICTION  
2010-11 AND 2011-12**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Percent of Students 2010-11</b>	<b>Percent of Students 2011-2012</b>	<b>Change</b>
Allegany County	91	90	-1
Anne Arundel County	86	86	0
Baltimore City	67	73	+6
Baltimore County	85	87	+2
Calvert County	89	87	-2
Caroline County	94	97	+3
Carroll County	95	95	0
Cecil County	80	78	-2
Charles County	83	83	0
Dorchester County	79	79	0
Frederick County	88	88	0
Garrett County	94	91	-3
Harford County	85	87	+2
Howard County	86	87	+1
Kent County	85	84	-1
Montgomery County	74	81	+7
Prince George's County	79	77	-2
Queen Anne's County	83	91	+8
Somerset County	85	93	+8
St. Mary's County	90	93	+3
Talbot County	80	82	+2
Washington County	76	78	+2
Wicomico County	87	88	+1
Worcester County	82	89	+7
MSD	19	70	+51
MARYLAND	81	83	+2

## Joint HHS and Education Committee Issues

### Head Start/Pre-Kindergarten

- Please update the Pre-Kindergarten/Head Start chart. HHS portions have been completed and the chart has been sent to MCPS. They will send the finished product to Vivian, with a copy to us.
- Please identify all adjustments in the FY13 budget that are related to the Head Start program.  
**The budget indicates a reduction in the Community Action Agency (CAA) budget for the Head Start Grant of 89,944. This is actually not a Head Start budget reduction but a reallocation of the federal funding from DHHS to MCPS' portion of the grant. Ten federally funded slots were formerly handled in a DHHS contract with a private child care center. Due to enrollment issues because of the paucity of child care subsidies, the determination was made that the slots could be more easily filled by the Head Start delegate agency, MCPS, the sub-recipient of the federal grant.**
- What is the impact of the reduction of \$89,944 to the Head Start Grant?  
**The impact is only that funding is reallocated within the federal grant from the grantee agency, CAA, to MCPS, the delegate agency. The federally funded enrollment is the same, 648 children and their families, despite the transfer of the funding from DHHS to the public schools.**
- What is total budget for the program that is appropriated through county government?  
**There are no county government dollars appropriated directly for the Head Start program. The local matching funds (\$1,848,719) are part of the MCPS annual budget.**
- Please provide the FY12 approved and FY13 recommended budget for the Centro Nia pre-kindergarten program. Please identify the number of children residing in Montgomery County who are on the Centro Nia waitlist, if any.
  - ❑ **CentroNia budget for FY12 and FY13: \$325,706 (This is for the two county-funded classrooms for 3 and 4 year olds). CentroNia also receives Judy Hoyer funding from MSDE for a separate Pre-K classroom, has several classrooms for children not funded through contracts, and an Early Head Start grant.**
  - ❑ **Total number of Montgomery County children on waiting lists for all CentroNia programs: 300**
- DHHS reported in FY12 budget discussions that it anticipated bidding up to five additional private community-based pre-kindergarten providers for

A

implementation in the 2012-2013 school years. Please provide an update on this effort.

**The discussion regarding the bidding for additional private community-based pre-kindergarten was predicated on the increase in funding directed at community-based Pre-K in FY12. As that did not materialize, no additional sites were bid out or established.**

- Please provide the most recent State data on school readiness rates by type of preschool provider for Montgomery and other jurisdictions in Maryland.

**Montgomery County full school readiness by prior care:**

- Child care center-85%
- Family child care-77%
- Head Start-72%
- Home/informal care-70%
- Non-public Nursery-91%
- PreK-82%

**Maryland full school readiness as a whole by prior care:**

- Child care center-87%
- Family child care-79%
- Head Start-76%
- Home/informal care-72%
- Non-public Nursery-93%
- PreK-83%

**Early Childhood Services**

- Please describe the services and training provided by the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center and its budget, including source of funding, for FY11 and FY12. How does the center support the professional and business development of child care providers in the County?

**MCCCRRC provides support to new and existing child care providers to ensure licensing requirements and pursue quality benchmarks for their own professional development and program's operation.**

**Business Solutions:**

- Train and assist individuals opening a licensed child care programs
- Effective methods to recruit, retain and coach staff
- Support new family child care providers with contracts, policies and marketing
- Provide support measures to maintain licensing compliance
- Offer individualized support to programs participating in the Quality Rating Improvement System (MD EXCELS)

**Program Support:**

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- Assist caregivers in working with infants and toddlers and their families to support early learning and development
- Mentor/coach early care educators on preschool curriculum and implementation
- Observe, assess and evaluate programs based on state and national criteria
- Offer on-site consultation on health and safety issues
- Provide resources for state and national accreditation efforts

**Professional Development:**

- Create and deliver MSDE approved pre-service and continuing education courses
- Create individualized plans to meet long term professional goals
- Oversee local scholarships for professionals pursuing early childhood degrees
- Facilitate the process for obtaining state and national credentials

CRC Funding Sources	FY11		FY12 <i>8 month grant Nov11-June12</i>	
	May 10-Apr 11	<i>6 month grant May11-Oct11</i>	INF/TOD	GENERAL
County General Funds	\$75,000	\$17,230.02	\$5,195.21	\$17,476.09
State/Federal Grants	\$231,273	\$109,721.00	\$49,272.00	\$97,023.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$306,273</b>	<b>\$126,951.02</b>	<b>\$54,467.21</b>	<b>\$114,499.09</b>

- How many individuals were served in FY11 and FY12?  
The number of individuals who were served in FY11 was 606 and to date in FY12 748 individuals have been served. The number of providers who were given one on one support (technical assistance) to pursue quality initiatives (MD Child Care Credential, accreditation support, curriculum implementation, and business solutions) in FY11 was 919 and to date in FY12 775 have been served. In FY11 there were 2559 training registrations and FY12 there have been 1191 training registrations (YTD).
- How many providers completed or participated in training or received credentials, e.g., completed the comprehensive family child care start-up series, received their CDA; participated in the MC Child Care Credential program; completed MCPS Pre-K curriculum training; and/or received additional training in the area of special needs?
  - ❑ 49 people completed the FCC start up series in FY11
  - ❑ Child Care Credential Program – this is not a measure we can easily report because of the State’s inability to access their own data

1/3

- ❑ **Pre-K Curriculum—there are currently 22 child care providers enrolled in the training phase and 15 child care providers involved in the mentoring phase.**

**The locations of the providers involved in the training are:**

***Group 1***

Clarksburg ES  
 Sligo Creek ES  
 Brookhaven  
 Luxamanor ES  
 Rosemary Hills ES  
 Cold Spring ES  
 Mill Creek Towne ES  
 Marshall ES  
 Highland ES  
 Twinbrook ES  
 Burning Tree ES  
 Waters Landing ES  
 Sherwood ES

***Group 2***

Twinbrook  
 Takoma Park  
 Ronald McNair  
 Stone Mill  
 Clarksburg  
 South Lake  
 Stedwick  
 Capt James Daley  
 Oakland Terrace  
 Galway  
 Cloverly  
 Rosemary Hills  
 Belmont  
 Mill Creek Town

- ❑ **30 child care providers are involved in the PEP Pilot Program (a collaboration with MCPS focused on inclusive child care for 3-5 year olds) and 43 child care providers involved in the Hanen Program (a collaboration with MCITP focused on speech and language development in children birth -5 years old)**

**Below is additional information on child care training and support provided through Early Childhood Services:**

<b>Child Care Training and Professional Development Services</b>	<b>Total # Served FY12</b>
Scholarship recipients pursuing the Child Development Associate (CDA)	<b>56</b>
Early childhood degree students receiving scholarships for Montgomery College	<b>84</b>
Training workshops for child care providers sponsored by the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center (MCCCR&RC)	<b>79</b>
Participants in training workshops for child care providers sponsored by the MCCCR&RC	<b>1,522</b>
Number of child care providers trained by MCCCR&RC (unduplicated count)	<b>624</b>

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<b>Child Care Technical Assistance and Consultation Services</b>	Total # Served FY12
Prospective and current child care providers given telephone technical assistance by MCCCCR&RC	1,383
Child care providers receiving ongoing technical assistance support from MCCCCR&RC	629
Number of clients served during onsite visits by Health Consultant	4,605
Telephone consultations with child care providers conducted by Health Consultant	160
Child care programs receiving on-site mental health consultation services	33
Brief consultations provided by Mental Health Consultants	3
Telephone consultations with child care providers conducted by Mental Health Consultants	183

- Please update the Committee on how the Department is implementing the Child Care in Schools project and coordinating dedicated child care space in schools with other MCPS and CUPF processes (since the abolishment of the Program Manager I position.)

**The Department continues to work closely with CUPF, MCPS, and DGS to both manage the project and to plan for the future. The day to day management is carried out by the Early Childhood Program Manager, DGS, HHS Facilities and Logistics Manager and CUPF staff.**

Please provide FY12 projected use and fee collection data for the Parent Resource Centers. What is the recommended FY13 budget for the program and what assumptions have been made regarding fee collection in FY13 and use of the fees by the program? Has the Department implemented/explored any mechanisms that would allow the program to accept donations to support operations?

<b>Families Served</b>	
FY11	329
FY12 projected	200
<b>Children Served</b>	
FY11	511
FY12 projected	315
<b>Fees Collected</b>	
FY11	\$25,000
FY12 projected	\$18,000
<b>Estimated FY13 Budget</b>	
Recommended FY13 Budget	\$48,120
FY12 Revenue Carry-over Assumption	\$18,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$66,120</b>

1/5

Although we believe there would be an interest in private contributions to this program, HHS does not have the resources to do fundraising.

**Child Care Subsidies**

- In addition to MMRs (March 2011 to Feb 2012), please provide MMR data for State POC from November 2010 onward.  
**Please see attached.**
- Please provide average monthly # of children served (paid), # of children enrolled, average monthly subsidy, # of applications received, # of application approved, and expenditures.

# Children served (paid)

POC average children paid per month data from MSDE available

**FY11 – 1829**

**FY12 to November 2011 – 1432 (latest data available from MSDE)**

WPA average children paid per month

**FY11 – 345**

**FY12 to March 2012 – 305**

# of children enrolled – We can provide # children vouchered for WPA.

POC Child data not available from MSDE

WPA average # vouchered per month

**FY11 – 404**

**FY12 to March 2012 – 353**

Average Monthly Subsidy

	<b>FY12 to date*</b>	<b>FY11</b>
POC	<b>\$435</b>	<b>\$407</b>
WPA	<b>\$467</b>	<b>\$433</b>

# Applications Received

	<b>FY12 to date*</b>	<b>FY11</b>
POC	<b>2453</b>	<b>4002</b>
WPA	<b>380</b>	<b>809</b>

# Applications Approved

	<b>FY12 to date*</b>	<b>FY11</b>
POC	<b>576</b>	<b>1274</b>
WPA	<b>9</b>	<b>334</b>

FY11 Expenditures to Date

	<b>FY12 to date*</b>	<b>FY11</b>
POC	<b>\$2,492,857</b>	<b>\$8,937,130</b>
WPA	<b>\$1,170,651</b>	<b>\$1,811,004</b>

\* - FY12 POC data is only available as of November 2012; WPA data is as of March 2012.

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- What is the total funding proposed for child care subsidy payments in FY13?  
\$1,792,210
- Please provide a status update on POC and WPA waitlist.  
**POC Waitlist**  
Based on the report on the MSDE website as of March 2, 2012, Montgomery County has a total of 1,135 families/cases for a total of 1,904 children on the POC Waitlist.  
  
**WPA Waitlist**  
Based on HHS waitlist for WPA as of March 2, 2012, Montgomery County has a total of 94 families/cases for a total of 147 children on the WPA Waitlist.
- What is proposed/approved State funding for child care subsidies in FY13?  
Please explain, to the extent possible, how the Department anticipates reductions in State funding for child care subsidies will impact families and POC and WPA waitlists in Montgomery County.  
**There is a \$9 million reduction in child care subsidies in the State budget. It is not yet known how this reduction will impact local jurisdictions or the expansion of the waitlist.**  
  
With a continuing POC waitlist, the WPA waitlist will likely remain in existence; although we may reach a level through attrition where we can serve a new family each time a family leaves the program – a “one out – one in” process.
- What would it cost to eliminate the current WPA wait list?  
**The cost to eliminate the WPA waitlist as of March 2012 is \$889,168.  
The cost to take 100 children off the WPA waitlist would be \$46,700 per month or \$560,400 for the entire year.**

**Infants and Toddlers**

- Please provide a chart that shows the components of Infants and Toddlers by funding source for FY12.

See chart below.

<p><b>Infant and Toddlers Funding for FY12</b></p>

✓



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

MARYLAND

279-3547



Malcolm Baldrige  
National Quality Award

2010 Award Recipient

April 23, 2012

Ms. Vivian Yao  
Senior Legislative Analyst  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Ms. Yao:

In response to questions in preparation for the joint meeting of the County Council Education and Human Services committees on April 26, 2012, on early childhood services, staff of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has prepared responses.

1. Is the \$40,000 for foster care transportation included in the Board's FY13 recommended operating budget?

Response:

Funding of \$40,000 for foster care transportation is included in the FY 2013 Operating Budget Request. Staff in the Department of Transportation will continue to follow existing procedures for transporting foster care students to their home schools.

2. Please provide enrollment and class updates on MCPS Pre-K and Head Start (full and part-day) programs for FY12. How many Head Start classes are mixed-age classes serve three and four year olds together? How many Head Start classes are three year old only classes? What is the total number of three-year-olds that have been enrolled in Head Start classes?

Response:

The MCPS FY 2012 budget includes capacity of 618 Head Start students and 2,085 pre-kindergarten students for a total of 2,703 students. Currently, there are 619 students enrolled in Head Start classes and 2,194 enrolled in pre-kindergarten classes for a total of 2,837 students.

There are 33 Head Start classes, including 17 full-day and 16 part-day classes. There are 104 part-day pre-kindergarten classes.

There are three Head Start classes that serve mixed classes of three-year old and four-year old students. These classes are located at Beall, College Gardens, and Dr. Sally K. Ride elementary schools. There are two pre-kindergarten classes that serve three-year old students exclusively. These classes are located at Maryvale and New Hampshire

Estates elementary schools. Each class serves 15 students for a total of 30 three-year old students. A total of 34 three-year old students are enrolled in mixed and exclusive three-year old classes.

3. How much has been proposed by the Board to support Pre-K and Head Start programs for the services in FY13? How does this amount differ from the FY12 approved amount? What portion of this total is attributable to non-grant funding? How many slots are recommended by the Board to be available in FY13, and how does the number of FY13 slots compare to the number of slots supported in the FY12 budget?

Response:

The FY 2013 Operating Budget includes \$5,290,884 for Head Start programs and \$9,016,548 for pre-kindergarten programs, including employee benefits. This request is \$1.3 million more than was budgeted in FY 2012. These totals include only direct services, not central administrative expenditures. There also is \$274,242 budgeted for the Community Montessori Charter School. The Head Start program also benefits from \$1.3 million in federal Title I funds for full-day Head Start. Of the total devoted to these programs, 74.2 percent is locally-funded and 25.8 percent is grant-funded.

In FY 2013, MCPS programs will include 33 Head Start classes, the same as in FY 2012, and 107 pre-kindergarten classes, an increase of three classes from FY 2012. There will be 628 slots for Head Start, an increase of ten slots, and 2,145 pre-kindergarten slots, an increase of 60. It also is expected that there will be 70 slots in FY 2013 at the new Community Montessori Charter School that will serve three-year old and four-year old children. The Board's request added \$221,021 for the additional three pre-kindergarten classes to accommodate anticipated enrollment in FY 2013. The superintendent of schools recommended a total of \$274,242 for the charter school that was approved by the Board of Education.

4. Did full-day Head Start services transition back to half-day program in FY12? Are there any recommendations to provide for full day services in FY13?

Response:

Yes. Four classes reverted to part-day status in the Head Start program in FY 2012. The classes are located at East Silver Spring, Montgomery Knolls, Rolling Terrace, and Watkins Mill elementary schools. The FY 2013 budget includes funding for 17 full-day classes.

5. Has funding for violence prevention services by community-based providers been recommended in the FY13 budget? If so, how much and to be delivered by whom?

Response:

Funding for violence prevention services by community-based providers in the amount of \$125,000 has been requested in the FY 2013 budget. These services will be delivered by the Mental Health Association (\$62,500) and Identity, Inc. (\$62,500) for positive youth development.

6. Please provide the FY11 and FY12 year-to-date information on the number of out-of school suspensions by school for the schools that refer to the SHARP programs.

Response:

Enclosed is suspension data for FY 2011 and FY 2012 for each of the schools that refer students to SHARP programs.

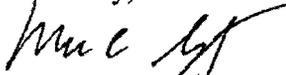
7. Has funding been proposed in the FY13 MCPS operating budget for a Kennedy Cluster Project coordinator? If so, what amount is included?

Response:

The FY 2013 operating budget includes \$27,093 for coordination support of the Kennedy Cluster project. This will enable MCPS to maintain the same level of coordination services as for the current year. It represents a reduction of \$33,796, based on the actual costs of coordination activities in the prior year and estimates for the current year. MCPS staff will continue to assist with needed services for at-risk students in the Kennedy Cluster.

Thank you very much for your work on early childhood programs. MCPS staff will be available to answer any additional questions. If you have any questions, please call Dr. Marshall C. Spatz, director, Department of Management, Budget, and Planning at 301-279-3547.

Sincerely,



Marshall C. Spatz  
Director

MCS:jp

Enclosures

Copy to:  
Ms. Garvey

Community Based Head St

Community Based Head Start and Prek Programs FY12

Models	Head Start- Community Based			MCPS School-Based Pre-K - 2½ hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 104 classes (avr. Class size 20 -22)  (1)	MCPS School-Based Head Start and local match 3 1/4 hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 33 classes (2)	MCPS School-Based FD HS-Title I Supplemental (17 classes) to be combined with (2) for Full-day (Based on average of actual salaries)  (3)
	CentroNia	Mont Coll	SSPCCC			
Example programs	CentroNia	Mont Coll	SSPCCC			
Method of award	RFP	Public Entity	RFP			
Children's Capacity	40	20	10	20	20	20
Number of Children Enrolled	40	18	5	2085	618	340 of 618 Head Start seats
Total funding (Classroom model for MCPS programs)	\$325,706.00	\$186,059.08	\$99,071.41	\$95,462.00	\$155,356.00	\$75,605.54
Total Funding per child	\$8,142.65	\$9,302.95	\$9,907.14	\$4,773.10	\$7,767.80	\$3,780.28
Hours of service per day	8	5	4.5	2.5	3.25	6
FY12 Contract Amount	Personnel	\$169,927.19	\$105,775.00	\$40,638.00		
	Fringe Benefits	\$30,386.89	\$32,198.00	\$16,255.00		
	Operating Expenses	\$125,191.92	\$29,832.08	\$33,051.41		
	Capital Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	Total	\$325,706.00	\$167,805.08	\$89,944.41		
MCPS Costs	Teacher			\$34,516	\$45,338	\$29,900
	Paraeducators			\$13,368	\$21,795	\$19,713
	Social Service Asst			\$4,374	\$12,328	
	Speech Pathologist		\$11,888.00	\$5,944.00	\$4,588	\$11,888
	Substitutes-Teachers			\$690	\$690	\$690
	Teacher, Special Needs			\$535	\$535	
	Teacher, ESOL			\$4,708	\$4,708	
	Substitutes-PARAS			\$518	\$665	\$665
	Psychologist		\$3,214.00	\$1,607.00	\$1,726	\$3,214
	Contractual Services			\$140	\$804	
	Instructional Materials			\$654	\$3,288	
	Food			\$404	\$1,490	
	Parent Activities			\$90	\$400	
	Equipment			\$0	\$574	
	Social Workers		\$3,152.00	\$1,576.00	\$1,704	\$3,152
	Field Trips			\$204	\$292	
Fringe/benefits			\$27,243	\$42,973	\$24,638	
Staff Development			\$0	\$1,222		
<b>Total MCPS Costs</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$18,254.00</b>	<b>\$9,127.00</b>	<b>\$95,462</b>	<b>\$155,356</b>	<b>\$75,606</b>

**Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs**

<b>Models</b>		<b>Head Start- Community Based</b>	<b>MCPS School-Based Pre-K - 2½ hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 104 classes (avr. Class size 20 -22)  (1)</b>	<b>MCPS School-Based Head Start and local match 3 1/4 hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 33 classes (2)</b>	<b>MCPS School-Based FD HS-Title I Supplemental (17 classes) to be combined with (2) for Full-day (Based on average of actual salaries)  (3)</b>
<b>Ages of Children served</b>	3 and 4 years	3 and 4 years	4 years	3 and 4 years	4 years only
<b>Child Care Subsidies</b>	Program provides support to families in obtaining subsidies for wrap around services	Participation in child care subsidies or campus grants (Montgomery College) critical for providing full day services	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Eligibility</b>	English Language Learning and FARMS	Head Start/ Fed Poverty Level	Federal/State FARMS level	Fed Poverty Level	Fed Poverty Level
<b>Length of service year</b>	12 months	12 months	10 months + summer ELO if Title I	10 months + Summer ELO if Title I. Head Start Summer School (120 seats)	10 months + Summer ELO Head Start Summer School ( 120 seats)
<b>Child Care wrap around services</b>	Available in classroom; subsidies and scholarships available	Parents use subsidies to pay for additional hours.	Parents arrange for either before or after	Parents arrange for either before or after	Parents arrange for either before or after
<b>Teacher qualifications</b>	BA in Early Childhood Education, minimum AA pursuing BA in ECE	An associate, baccalaureate, or advanced degree in early childhood education / HS Performance Standards	MSDE Early Childhood Certified	MSDE Early Childhood Certified	MSDE Early Childhood Certified
<b>Curriculum</b>	Creative Curriculum- Aligned with MCPS PreK curriculum	Aligned with MCPS PreK curriculum	MCPS Pre-K curriculum	MCPS Pre-K curriculum	MCPS Pre-K curriculum
<b>Training requirements</b>	Child care licensing requirements	HS Training/ Child care licensing requirements	Pre-k Inst./Volun. cohorts	Pre-k Inst./HS Inst./Volun. cohorts	Pre-k Inst./HS Inst./Volun. cohorts/3 days ofFDHS training
<b>Nutrition support</b>	Participates in USDA Food Program, snacks and lunch	Each child must receive meals and snacks that provide at least 1/3 of the child's daily nutritional needs; lunch and snack	FARMS participation	FARMS participation	FARMS participation
<b>Assessment tool</b>	Creative Curriculum	MCPS-AP, ECOR	MCPS-AP, ECOR	MCPS-AP, ECOR	MCPS-AP, ECOR

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**Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs**

<b>Models</b>		<b>Head Start- Community Based</b>	<b>MCPS School-Based Pre-K - 2½ hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 104 classes (avr. Class size 20 -22)  (1)</b>	<b>MCPS School-Based Head Start and local match 3 1/4 hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 33 classes (2)</b>	<b>MCPS School-Based FD HS-Title I Supplemental (17 classes) to be combined with (2) for Full-day (Based on average of actual salaries)  (3)</b>
<b>Supports offered</b>	Mentor through the PreK Child Care Curriculum project	Head Start Instructional Specialists, psychologists, speech path., social workers, admin.	staff developer, EC specialist, reading specialist, psychologists, speech path., social workers, admin.	staff developer, EC specialist, reading specialist, psychologists, speech path , social workers, admin.	staff developer, EC specialist, reading specialist, psychologists, speech path , social workers, admin.
	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	related services outlined above	related services outlined above	related services outlined above	related services outlined above
	Health Consultation for staff	HS nurse/dental hygn.	Health aide/HS/PK nurse	Health aide/HS/PK nurse/dental hygn.	Health aide/HS/PK nurse/dental hygn.
	Family Support Activities	Parent involvement as per HS Performance Standards, HS Policy Council	Parent outreach, education, policy council, volunteers, outreach from FSW	Parent outreach, education, volunteers, outreach from Family Service Worker, Parent Involvement, Policy Council, per Head Start Performance Standards	
	Frequent parent workshops, including health information	Parent education, family partnership agreements, shared governance, Family Nights	Math and Literacy Nights, Literacy outreach, Parent Education, Parent Academy	Parent education, family partnership agreements, shared governance, Family Nights, Parent Academy	Parent Education, family partnership agreements, shared governance, Family Nights, Parent Academy
	Accredited by MSDE	Requires program to be accredited, licensed according to COMAR	Meets state COMAR requirements	Meets state COMAR requirements and Federal Head Start Performance Standards	Meets state COMAR requirements and Federal Head Start Performance Standards
	Staff includes Parent Resource Coordinator	Each site has Family Service Worker assigned, as well as use of HS Parent Volunteer Coordinator	Family service worker assigned to each site as well as use of Parent Involvement Specialist, Social Worker, Instructional Specialist, special needs teacher, speech, psychologist, and ESOL teacher	Family Service Worker assigned to each site as well as use of Parent Involvement Specialist, Social Worker, Instructional Specialist, special needs teacher, speech, psychologist, and ESOL teacher	Family Service Worker assigned to each site as well as use of Parent Involvement Specialist, Social worker, instructional specialist, Special needs teacher, psychologist, and ESOL teacher
	Bi-lingual teachers/staff	Head Start Performance Standards require at least 1 staff who speaks language of majority of children	Many paraeducators bilingual	Many paraeducators bilingual	Many paraeducators bilingual
		Dental screenings and follow up	Referral to resources	Dental screenings and follow up	Dental screenings and follow up

**Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs**

Models		Head Start- Community Based	MCPS School-Based Pre-K - 2½ hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 104 classes (avr. Class size 20 -22)  (1)	MCPS School-Based Head Start and local match 3 ¼ hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 33 classes (2)	MCPS School-Based FD HS-Title I Supplemental (17 classes) to be combined with (2) for Full-day (Based on average of actual salaries)  (3)
		Vision Screenings	Vision Screenings	Vision Screenings	Vision Screenings
		Head Start School Health Nurses	Health Nurses Available at Schools	Head Start School Health Nurses,	Head Start School Health Nurses
		Medical consultations as needed & referrals	Medical consult as needed-referral	Medical consult as needed-referral	Medical consult as needed-referral
	Special needs assessments	Special needs assessments	Special needs identification and assessment process	Special needs identification and assessment process	Special needs identification and assessment process
<b>Challenges</b>		Recruit qualified staff	Recruit qualified staff	Recruit qualified staff	Recruit qualified staff
		Staff turnover	Normally occurring transfers and retirements	Normally occurring transfers and retirements	Normally occurring transfers and retirements
		Pay differential between Head Start teacher and rest of staff	N/A MCPS teacher salary scale	N/A MCPS teacher salary scale	N/A MCPS teacher salary scale
	Child care subsidy, eligibility and copay too high	Child care subsidy, eligibility, and copay too high; long waiting list for subsidies	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Potentially full day with child care subsidies (local, state or college grant)	Not full day	Not full day	Full day
		Cost and demands of Accreditation	space available in some communities	space available in some communities	space available in some communities
		limited number of programs willing to partner with Head Start			

## CENTRONIA AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In July 2008, the Montgomery County Council established a work group to develop recommendations for implementing a county wide program that would provide the opportunity for all four-year-olds to participate in a high quality preschool program.



The long term vision of the work group was to provide access to voluntary, quality preschool services in a variety of settings that meet the diverse needs of all four-year-old children and their families. With that goal in mind Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) entered into a collaborative partnership with two qualified child care providers in an effort to meet the need. One of these providers, CentroNia, located in Takoma Park, Maryland, provides access to a full day, high quality prekindergarten program for twenty children who will transition into surrounding kindergarten programs in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

### STUDENT RECRUITMENT, SCHEDULE, TUITION AND ENROLLMENT

The children served by CentroNia represent the most under served and economically disadvantaged children in Montgomery County with the highest number of children from Hispanic and Latino families (84%). Another 6% are African American, 1% Caucasian, 1% African decent and 8% from multi-ethnic backgrounds. A large majority of the children (79%) are English language learners from families who qualify for free or reduced priced meals status

(FARMS). Children and families are recruited for this program through the joint collaboration of CentroNia, MCPS, and other community partners who work to identify the neediest children in the community. Currently this site delivers a bilingual prekindergarten

program for twenty (20) three and four year old children, with the goal of successfully preparing the children to enter kindergarten fully ready to learn. The program operates a full-day child care program from 7:00 a.m., to 6:00 p.m., five days a week, and currently serves 92 children in Early Head Start and prekindergarten. The prekindergarten program supported with funds from the Preschool for All Grant operates year-round Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parents have the option of paying a fee, or accessing services through the state's child care subsidy program so that their children can have before-and-after-school care at the center. By giving families the option of up to eleven (11) hours of programs each day, CentroNia fully accommodates the needs of working parents who require a safe place for their children, while they are working. The tuition rate for the full-day, 6 ½ hour prekindergarten program is \$185.50 per week with a 40 to 60% discount of the tuition rates based on individual family needs. At the completion of the prekindergarten year CentroNia coordinates transition activities with the nearby elementary schools, thus ensuring a smooth entrance into the kindergarten year in the public school.

## CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

The grant funded classroom at CentroNia is spacious and equipped with the materials necessary to carry out the early childhood program. It is designed to promote growth, learning, and school readiness in the physical, social-emotional, cognitive, and creative domains. The classroom is organized to meet the standards of the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS), and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards for environments, which is evidenced by age appropriate learning centers and developmentally appropriate learning materials. The environment, equipment and classroom materials invite exploration, the building of fine and gross motor skills, and opportunities to build meaning about the world through interactions with caring adults and peers. The classroom is staffed with three (3) teachers for the group of 20 children. Two of the teachers are native Spanish speakers and one is an English speaker. The lead teacher holds a BA in Early Childhood Education and is currently pursuing Maryland teacher certification. The center prepares and serves breakfast, lunch, and a snack five days a week to all children. CentroNia also employs a registered nutritionist to provide guidance and support to the in-house cook on proper food preparation and how to create balanced, healthy, and well-proportioned meals.

## CURRICULUM

CentroNia's early childhood curriculum includes goals for children's development and learning; experiences through which children will achieve these goals; what staff and parents must do to help children succeed at these goals; and the materials needed to support the implementation of the curriculum. Planning for the classroom is guided by the Maryland State Curriculum (MSC) and the MMSR Framework and Standards for Prekindergarten. Teachers

supplement the MSC with The Creative Curriculum<sup>6</sup> to help children become grade level proficient in the areas of language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, personal and social development, the arts, science and social studies.

## SCREENING AND REFERRAL SERVICES

Classroom teachers use a variety of assessment tools, instruments and procedures to evaluate the progress of each child, document their learning and assess their skills and knowledge. CentroNia refers children to Child Find for screening and evaluation services based on teacher observations. In addition, the center partners with Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind and the Mary Center for Maternal and Child Health to provide vision, hearing, and health screenings. Center personnel work with individual families to ensure that supports for families are available. CentroNia collaborates with the Judy Center at Rolling Terrace Elementary School, located approximately two miles from the center to ensure that non-English speaking families have the additional support services they need.



<sup>6</sup> The Creative Curriculum<sup>®</sup> published by Teaching Strategies, Inc.

## PEPPERTREE CHILDREN'S CENTER AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Over the last two years, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has developed a partnership with Peppertree Centers, Inc. in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Peppertree Children's Centers, a private, nonprofit organization, has been operating child care centers in Montgomery



County since 1982. Serving the needs of families with children aged 6 weeks through 12 years, Peppertree Children's Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and provides a MSDE approved nursery school program.

### STUDENT RECRUITMENT, SCHEDULE, TUITION AND ENROLLMENT

Peppertree Children's Center (PCC) works with the staff of MCPS's Early Childhood Office to obtain enrollment referrals to their program. The center also uses advertisements in a local newspaper to outreach to the community about the opportunity for a prekindergarten program at an accredited child care center. According to center director Harriet Burger the demand for this type of program is strong. Within a few weeks of advertising the program, ten children were enrolled along with eight students, who were previously attending Peppertree's nursery school program. The Preschool for All Grant supports a culturally and economically diverse prekindergarten classroom. Peppertree is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30

p.m. year-round. The Preschool for All Grant funded prekindergarten program for eighteen (18) children operates during a 6 ½ hour session, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., five days per week during the Montgomery County school calendar year. PCC reserves space in the classroom for 10 children whose families

meet the income eligibility with the remaining placements held for students transitioning out of PCC's three-year-old classroom, or newly enrolled students. Families who do not meet the income eligibility guidelines are charged a fee of \$450.00 per month to participate in the Preschool for All Grant classroom. If families require before-or after-school care for their child a fee of \$140.00 is charged for this service.

### CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Peppertree's prekindergarten classroom is staffed by degreed early childhood educators who continue to work toward earning Maryland teacher certification in the field. The classroom size limits the number of children in the group to eighteen (18), which affords a student to teacher ratio of one-to-nine. Age appropriate learning centers are designed to enhance opportunities for children to develop creatively and apply their learning. As an enhancement to the classroom program PCC contracts the services of community agencies to provide fine arts and physical development enrichment activities for students.<sup>7</sup> Students

are also provided further enrichment through yearly scheduled field trips to areas of interest to young children. MCPS's Early Childhood Supervisor provides on-site technical assistance and mentoring for teachers. Teachers are invited to participate in professional development opportunities with MCPS. Peppertree provides breakfast that is prepared at the center, and an afternoon snack for those children remaining beyond the program hours free of charge to all students. All children are provided a daily hot lunch delivered to the center through an arrangement with MCPS.

## CURRICULUM

Peppertree uses an MSDE recommended curriculum<sup>8</sup> to provide a comprehensive approach to all content areas required in the MMSR Prekindergarten standards. Other classroom curricular programs, including Color Me Healthy and Choosy Kids, are implemented for nutrition and physical fitness education. The grant allows Peppertree to further enrich and supplement the academic program with a weekly music class provided by Academy of Music, a weekly art class from Urbana Art & Soul, and a weekly physical fitness class taught by the Jump Bunch. Students are also provided the opportunity for education field trips throughout the year.

## SCREENING AND REFERRAL SERVICES

All children are provided health screenings such as vision and hearing, and speech and language screening for developmental delays. PCC enlists the services of qualified technicians to ensure that all children are appropriately screened.<sup>9</sup> The focus of these services is on identifying children with special needs and assisting families with the process of attaining appropriate early intervention.

Montgomery County Health and Human Services provides mental health services as needed. The center's location in the Up-County Regional Services Center enables families to be referred for various social services in the building. All children receive a developmental screening within the first three months of enrollment in the program. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), a nationally recognized normative based instrument, is used for the assessment. Other informal assessments include teacher observations of student's skills, rating scales and collection of work samples for student portfolios. Assessment of readiness skills is completed three times a year and communicated to parents during parent/teacher conferences. The assessment portfolios maintained for each student are articulated to teachers upon transition to the kindergarten program. MCPS Early Childhood Office assists Peppertree in tracking the performance of children after they have left the prekindergarten program and entered the public school.



<sup>7</sup> Jump Bunch; Academy of Music; Urbana Art & Soul.

<sup>8</sup> Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, Little Treasures and Growing with Mathematics.

<sup>9</sup> Karen Richman, Hearing and Vision Technician, MCPS; Paines Rosenberg & Associates.

## Provision of Quality Benchmarks and Preschool Services Characteristics

Quality Benchmarks Program Characteristics	Catholic Charities Head Start	Children's Center Group Walkersville	Greenbelt Children's Center	The Young School	Worcester County Public Schools
<b>Curriculum</b>	Creative Curriculum Little Treasures and Math Connects	Frederick County Public Schools PreK Curriculum/ Creative Curriculum	Houghton Mifflin	MSDE Accepted Young School Curriculum	Integration of county developed curriculum and Houghton Mifflin Prekindergarten
<b>Accrediting Agency</b>	MSDE	MSDE	NAEYC	MSDE	MSDE/Middle States
<b>Teacher Specialized Training/Education and Certification</b>	Bachelors MD Certified ECE	Bachelors MD Certified ECE	Bachelors MD Certified ECE	Bachelors MD Certified ECE	Bachelors ECE, MD Certified
<b>Assistant Teacher Training Education/ Certification</b>	90 Hr Child Care Certificate, CDA, On-going Core Of Knowledge Training	Bachelors Education	CDA	AA degree	High School diploma, ParaProfessional test completed
<b>Professional Development and Training for Recertification</b>	Tchr 1- MSDE Credentialing Level 6; Completing 2nd yr MMSR; working in Master's program; COK Training; Completed Catholic Charities' Leadership Academy Tchr 2. Child Care Admin Class; COK Training (i.e. CSEFEL; MSDE Credentialing Training; On-going HS Training w/CCPS/Judy Center	Teacher is working toward Master's Degree. Teachers attend FCPS professional development trainings and partnership trainings through Child Care Choices	Required college courses for MD Certificate, 24 hours continued training annually for Mod Credential	Teachers participate in the MD Child Care Credentialing Program, The Young School provides 18 hours of Core of Knowledge training per year	Teacher has participated in MSDE Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) Update training, MMSR Online WSS Data Collection; Multicultural Training; MMSR Scientific Thinking, and Creative Curriculum training
<b>Lead Teacher Salary</b>	Teacher 1: \$36,086 Teacher 2: \$33,298	\$24,954	\$59,909	\$21,596 - \$33,400	\$51,352
<b>Target Group Served</b>	3-5 year old income eligible students	13 Head Start children, other children selected from Glade Elementary wait List	Income eligible students	185-300% above federal poverty guidelines; non-English speakers	Income eligible 4-year old students
<b>Full day or half day</b>	Full day 6 5 hours	Half day	Full Day 6 5 hours	Half day academic program with before and after school services	Two 2 5 hour sessions
<b>Subsidized Tuition Cost</b>	No tuition fees	No cost for the PreK Program. Additional before and after care is available at \$5 15 an hour	\$111.00 per week Parent Fee (40% subsidy = \$74 00 wkly)	Sliding tuition fee scale	No tuition fees
<b>Maximum Class Size</b>	20 students	19 students	20 students	40 children per cottage, with 5 + adults	15 students, lead teacher and assistant
<b>Staff to Child Ratio</b>	1 to 10	1 to 10	1 to 10	1 to 10	1 to 8
<b>Screening/Referral Requirements- vision, hearing, speech and language, health and physical development and additional support services</b>	ASQ and ASQ-SE, LAP-D, Vision, hearing, dental, lead testing, physicals, Speech/ language screening and therapy, developmental screening, education and support, PT, OT, ISFP/ IEP, annual health screening, mental health referral and supports, support and inclusion services for children with disabilities	Head Start Healthy Days provided Screening and Referrals in August, along with FCPS, the Health Department and Mental Health Association. PERKS has provided ongoing classroom support for a child transitioning into the Pre-K program	"Hearing & Vision Screenings by MD Hearing & Vision, Inc. Speech Screenings by United Testing Services Health Screening by each child's physician upon entry via the MD Health Inventory Physical Education Program, Funstastic Fitness, monthly; planned large muscle activities daily	Howard County Health Department provides vision and hearing screening, Teachers and parents administer the ASQ and ASQ-SE screening tool; Collaboration with Howard County Office of Early Intervention Services as needed	Vision, Hearing, Speech/ Language, Health/Physical development provided by WCPS Elementary Support Personnel and Worcester County Health Department
<b>Meal Requirements</b>	Breakfast and Lunch	Head Start children have lunch prior to starting the afternoon PreK at 1:10 p.m. All children receive an afternoon snack prior to 3:40 p.m. dismissal	Provided by program: breakfast, milk (lunches brought from home) and afternoon snack	N/A	Breakfast and lunch provided for students who qualify for Free and Reduced Priced Meals, at little or no cost Snacks provided daily in both sessions
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	Classroom Observations, annual performance evaluations, MSDE accreditation, Head Start monitoring, ongoing strategic planning and quality initiatives	Actively involved in the MSDE Re-Accreditation process The Pre-K is monitored by Dr. Judith M Sherman, independent evaluator. FCPS Early Childhood Education Specialist, provides ongoing monitoring, evaluation and mentoring of the teacher.	Evaluation by Research and Measurement, Inc. (RAM)	The Young School uses the Work Sampling System based evaluation tool as the Howard County Public School System prekindergarten program.	Work Sampling/MMSR P4 Checklist is used to assess the progress of prekindergarten students. Prior cohorts of children are assessed on the Kindergarten Assessment.

Appendix 1: Percent of Students Fully Ready for Kindergarten with comparable institutions in LEA									
* Indicates significant difference from pilot prek (p<.05)	Full MMSR	Language & Literacy	Mathe-matical Thinking	Scientific thinking	Social Studies	The Arts	Physical Dev't	Social and Personal Dev't	
Pilot Total	91.4 (n=185)	82.7	87.0	80.0	83.8	88.7	90.8	81.6	
Kindergarteners not in pilot prek (n=61,938)	All other kindergarteners	80.9* (n=61,938)	70.7*	74.6*	67.7*	73.2*	82.6*	87.2	77.3
	Public Pre-k	80.5*	71.0*	74.8*	66.3*	72.2*	82.4*	87.1	76.6
	Child Care Centers	87.2	79.0	82.9	76.3	80.8	86.3	89.8	79.4
	Private Prek	92.0	85.4	87.9	82.2	85.9	89.4	93.2	87.7*
	Head Start	72.0*	59.5*	64.0*	56.0*	61.9*	77.4*	83.2*	70.6*
Washington County (LEA 21, n=1,614)	The Learning Center of Washington County	87.1 (n=31)	83.9	87.1	61.3	74.2	83.9	87.1	61.3
	Public Pre-k	78.8	68.3	73.0	58.2	61.8	83.3	87.0	72.5
	Child Care Centers	85.6	76.7	75.7	62.4	67.8	86.1	89.6	69.3
	Private Prek	89.4	83.3	81.8	62.9	75.8	87.9	94.7	87.1
Montgomery County (LEA 15, n=10,927)	Peppertree Learning Center	92.9 (n=14)	71.4	85.7	64.3	71.4	100	100	78.6
	Public Pre-k	74.8	65.9	69.8	51.4	59.1	77.8	74.1	72.8
	Child Care Centers	78.6	70.9	75.3	56.5	64.5	78.9	86.4	72.2
	Private Prek	82.7	76.0	78.7	61.9	68.0	80.9	87.6	79.0
Howard County (LEA 13, n=3,382)	The Young School Early Education Program	94.1 (n=17)	92.2	90.2	92.2	92.2	86.3	84.3	92.2
	Public Pre-k	76.7	72.3	75.5	76.7	69.6	72.7	62.9	80.4
	Child Care Centers	91.2	84.7	87.6	89.1	86.6	87.0	79.5	89.7
	Private Prek	94.4	90.0	90.8	91.9	89.1	91.8	87.5	92.7
Frederick County (LEA 10, n=2,984)	Children's Center Group at Walkersville-Frederick County Head Start	100 (n=17)	94.1	100	88.2	88.2	100	100	70.6
	Public Pre-k	85.2	78.5	80.4	76.4	77.3	84.6	92.5	79.4
	Child Care Centers	93.0	88.8	90.8	84.2	83.3	90.6	95.4	81.6
	Private Prek	94.4	89.0	89.5	86.8	88.7	92.6	95.9	90.4
	Head Start	84.8	72.4	75.1	75.1	73.7	82.0	92.2	77.4
Carroll County (LEA 6, n=1,837)	Catholic Charities Head Start	96.8 (n=31)	83.9	83.9	96.8	87.1	96.8	93.6	93.8
	Public Pre-k	91.6	78.8	82.2	86.9	88.9	92.9	92.9	85.2
	Child Care Centers	95.2	88.5	89.0	94.3	94.0	93.3	96.7	86.2
	Private Prek	98.4	94.5	92.3	95.3	97.8	95.4	99.2	95.7
	Head Start	91.2	82.4	85.3	97.1	85.3	91.2	94.1	88.2
Cecil County (LEA 7, n=1,114)	Family Education Center/Cecil County PS	100 (n=7)	85.7	100	85.7	100	85.7	100	100
	Public Pre-k	81.5	67.8	74.7	71.1	79.4	82.3	86.7	76.0
	Child Care Centers	86.1	79.4	75.8	81.8	85.5	81.8	84.9	81.2
	Private Prek	89.2	78.4	82.9	85.6	85.6	91.0	94.6	81.1
	Head Start	61.5	53.9	59.0	53.9	64.1	71.8	71.8	71.8
Baltimore City (LEA 30, n=6,662)	Sandi's Learning Center/Baltimore City PS	78.1 (n=32)	62.5	75.0	62.5	75.0	78.1	90.6	71.9
	Public Pre-k	72.8	63.2	67.9	50.7	57.5	75.9	82.8	70.3
	Child Care Centers	66.4	55.8	58.4	48.7	55.4	72.9	76.6	65.1
	Private Prek	83.4	73.7	77.1	70.9	69.1	82.3	85.1	80.0
	Head Start	61.3	50.3	51.9	40.0	46.4	69.3	75.9	64.1

Insufficient data were available for analysis of CentroNia and Worcester County Public Schools/Showell Elementary school. County data indicate the LEA in which the student attends kindergarten rather than the LEA in which they attended pre kindergarten or child care. Pilot preK data indicates the pilot program the student was part of, regardless of which LEA they enrolled in kindergarten.