

BY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD-CALLOWAY

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER'S "PRE-K FOR ALL" PLAN TO
INTRODUCE UNIVERSAL PRE-K IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**

WHEREAS, Universal Pre-K provides the opportunity for every family to send their child to a publicly funded preschool program at no cost, just as they can do for kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, Universal Pre-K can help take financial stress off families and provide access for those who otherwise would not be able to send their children to preschool while also keeping parents in the workforce, thus helping to reduce long-term negative consequences many parents experience in terms of lower wages, savings and benefits due to interruptions to job and career advancement opportunities while raising young children; and

WHEREAS, Early childhood education can provide educational benefits for students, including improved standardized test scores in elementary school, fewer course failures throughout the education system, and improved attendance; and

WHEREAS, High quality pre-K programs enhance children's academic and social skills, language, and emotional development, and offer long term benefits which included higher high school graduation rates and increased likelihood that children will later pursue goals of higher education;¹ and

WHEREAS, Additionally, studies have shown that pre-K provides a significant return on investment because the improved outcomes in the lives of the participating children make it far less likely that they will be arrested, need to rely on other government programs, or be unemployed;² and

WHEREAS, States with strong preschool systems are more likely to develop more highly educated and productive workforces, and achieve greater overall growth down the road than a state that does not have a strong preschool system;³ and

WHEREAS, Michigan's state-funded Great Start Readiness Program has been around since the 1980's, and makes pre-K available to 4-year-olds from low-income families; and

WHEREAS, During her January 24, 2024 State of the State address, Governor Whitmer announced a proposal that would make state-funded pre-K accessible to all families regardless of income; and

¹ [Education Policy Initiative, University of Michigan: An Evidence-Based Path to Expanding High-Quality Pre-K in Michigan, December 2023](#)

² <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/05/18/997501946/the-case-for-universal-pre-k-just-got-stronger>

³ [Education Commission of the States: Exploring New Research on Pre-K Outcomes, May 2020](#)

WHEREAS, While Governor Whitmer’s initial goal had been to secure funding for universal pre-k by the end of 2026, her most recent budget proposal aims to achieve the funding by the end of 2024; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Council supports Governor Whitmer’s “Pre-K for All” plan, recognizing that for a child to succeed, education ought to begin at the earliest possible age and that quality early childhood education has the potential to drastically improve the lives of children; **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Council calls upon our state legislators to conduct careful review of the budget proposal in a spirit of cooperation across party lines, collaborating in the best interest of families and children, and recognizing this as an opportunity to make meaningful change in the lives of millions of Michiganders now and well into the future; **BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Whitmer, the Michigan State House, the Michigan State Senate, members of Detroit’s state legislative delegation, and the City’s lobbyist in Lansing.