

Universal Preschool Update and Recommendations

Board Meeting

April 30, 2015

Background information:

- 56.9% of students entering Kindergarten in Marion County Public Schools in 2014 were Kindergarten Ready
- Universal Preschool is One of Marion County Public Schools' Six Big Dreams
- Overall, Summit attendees ranked the big dream of Universal Preschool as the #1 "Next Step" for Marion County Public Schools
- Per state guidelines, Marion County Public Schools currently serves:
 - 3 and 4 year-olds with disabilities
 - 4 year-olds whose family's are income eligible
 - 150% Poverty Rate for 2014-2015
 - 160% Poverty Rate for 2015-2016

Committee:

- The Universal Preschool Dream Committee met several times over the course of the year to:
 - Review and discuss existing data
 - Conduct a feasibility study to determine who would like to attend preschool
 - Discuss facility needs
 - Investigate tuition charges in surrounding counties
 - Discuss schedule and determine overall costs to district.

Recommendations from the Universal Preschool Committee to the Board:

- If there are more preschool applicants than available slots, offer preschool enrollment utilizing a lottery process based on the following:
 1. Offer Preschool Monday through Thursday in conjunction with the regular school day and the preschool operational calendar
 2. Transport all students Monday through Thursday
 3. Base tuition on \$15.00/day

Outreach/Child Find Activities:

- Ham Days Booth
- Halloween in the Park
- Dickens Christmas Celebration
- Over the Top Preschool Registration Event
- Reading Celebration
- Facebook Posts
- Information on District Website
- We surveyed the community on preschool needs/interests

Preschool Regulations:

- We maintain a full-utilization contract with Headstart
 - Based on the contract, Headstart must have 53, four-year-olds
 - Preschool classrooms cannot exceed 20 students per classroom
 - Preschool classrooms must maintain a 10:1 ratio which requires that each classroom be staffed with a teacher and a paraeducator
 - When a preschooler rides a school bus, a preschool monitor must be present on the bus.