



Universal Prekindergarten Program Plan

Introduction

Ed Law 3602-e requires State Administered Prekindergarten programs to provide a plan identifying specific goals, including how the district will expand its program to assure that all eligible children may be served, and a proposed timetable for the implementation and achievement of such goals.

Federal funding for Universal Prekindergarten allocated a maximum amount of \$674,960 to the Baldwinsville Central School District to serve 118 students. State funding for Universal Prekindergarten allocated a maximum amount of \$1,245,349 to serve up to 202 students. This funding totals \$1,920,309 to serve a maximum of 320 students. Based on available staffing and classroom space, the district was able to offer 11 sections of Universal Prekindergarten for a total of 198 students, utilizing \$1,132,560 of the available funding.

The district posted a Request for Proposals to Community Based Organizations on February 14, 2023 on the district website and in the local newspaper. It was also sent via email. The due date for responses was March 15, 2023 at 3:00 pm. The district received interest from two partners.

Registration for Universal Prekindergarten was open through April 6, 2023 at 3:00 pm to be considered for the initial selection process. At that time, less students registered than seats were available. In other words, all students who met the registration deadline were able to be placed in the Universal Prekindergarten program. District staff responded to the interested community partners that the number of enrolled Prekindergarten students were able to be served in-district. The community partners remained interested in future opportunities for collaboration.

The district's Universal Prekindergarten program began January 31, 2021 when funding became available. Since that time, the following areas will be a focus for the 2023-24 school year:

Program design effectively serves eligible children

Plan summary:

To ensure the program design effectively serves eligible children, the district will post a Request for Proposals to eligible Community Based Organizations in February 2023, with submissions due in March 2023.

Partnerships are contingent upon student enrollment by the April 6, 2023 deadline for the initial selection process.

Additionally, to ensure effective program design in future school years, the district has formed an advisory committee called "Funding Improvements and Building the Future." This committee will meet 7 times in the summer and fall of 2023 to tour facilities and discuss plans for future phases of capital projects. The recommendations of the consultants facilitating this committee will be presented to the Board of Education during the January 24, 2024 workshop.

Utilizes staff who meet qualification requirements

Plan summary:

Certification of all teachers and teaching assistants is verified by the Office of Human Resources prior to appointment as a teacher or teaching assistant serving the Universal Prekindergarten program.

Provides staff development and teacher training

Plan summary:

During the summer of 2023, Universal Prekindergarten teachers participated in staff development and training in the areas of classroom management, literacy and language skills, social and emotional skills, and curriculum development. The district will provide ongoing staff development and teacher training throughout the school year.

Transition to Kindergarten opportunities

Plan summary:

To support students' transitions to Kindergarten, "Get Ready for K" orientation sessions are held in the spring, followed by a culminating session in late August. Students and their families meet school staff and participate in activities to familiarize them with their school buildings, including the opportunity to board a school bus.

These activities will also be supported by the district's recently adopted 5-year strategic plan. Strategic plan priorities include:

