



**Strong Start,
Strong Future.**

LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIRS

In Cincinnati, we are building a new reality in which our children are prepared to succeed, not only in kindergarten but in life. We are creating a community that supports families, who want to make the best decisions for their children, and preschool teachers and staff, who teach and nurture our children during the most important time of their life.

This is because of you.

The people of our community have made it clear, we believe all children deserve the best start – no matter what neighborhood, income level, gender or race.

Five years ago, you believed in Cincinnati Preschool Promise when it was just a dream. You shared the vision with friends, family and colleagues, building momentum and support. In 2016, you walked in parades, knocked on doors and volunteered. You voted in record numbers.

And now we are excited to celebrate our first year successes with you, as well as a glimpse into what this work means for the long term success of our children, families and city.

In year one of the Cincinnati Preschool Promise, we opened the doors for over 1,300 of our youngest learners to attend high-quality preschool. We partnered with 82 local preschools to provide tuition assistance to families. We worked with 27 community preschools, providing support to increase quality. We collected insight from over 125 preschool providers about wages and benefits to begin the next steps to insure sufficient and increased wages for teachers.

In this report, you will hear from families and preschools who are thriving because of you. Each story is unique, but all are focused on a brighter future. Families are excited about children who are ready for kindergarten; preschools are excited about higher quality ratings, attracting and retaining quality teachers and the ability to better support their families.

For each of these and the many other individuals impacted because of this work, we thank you. Because of you, Cincinnati will become a city where all children and all families can succeed and thrive.

Sincerely,



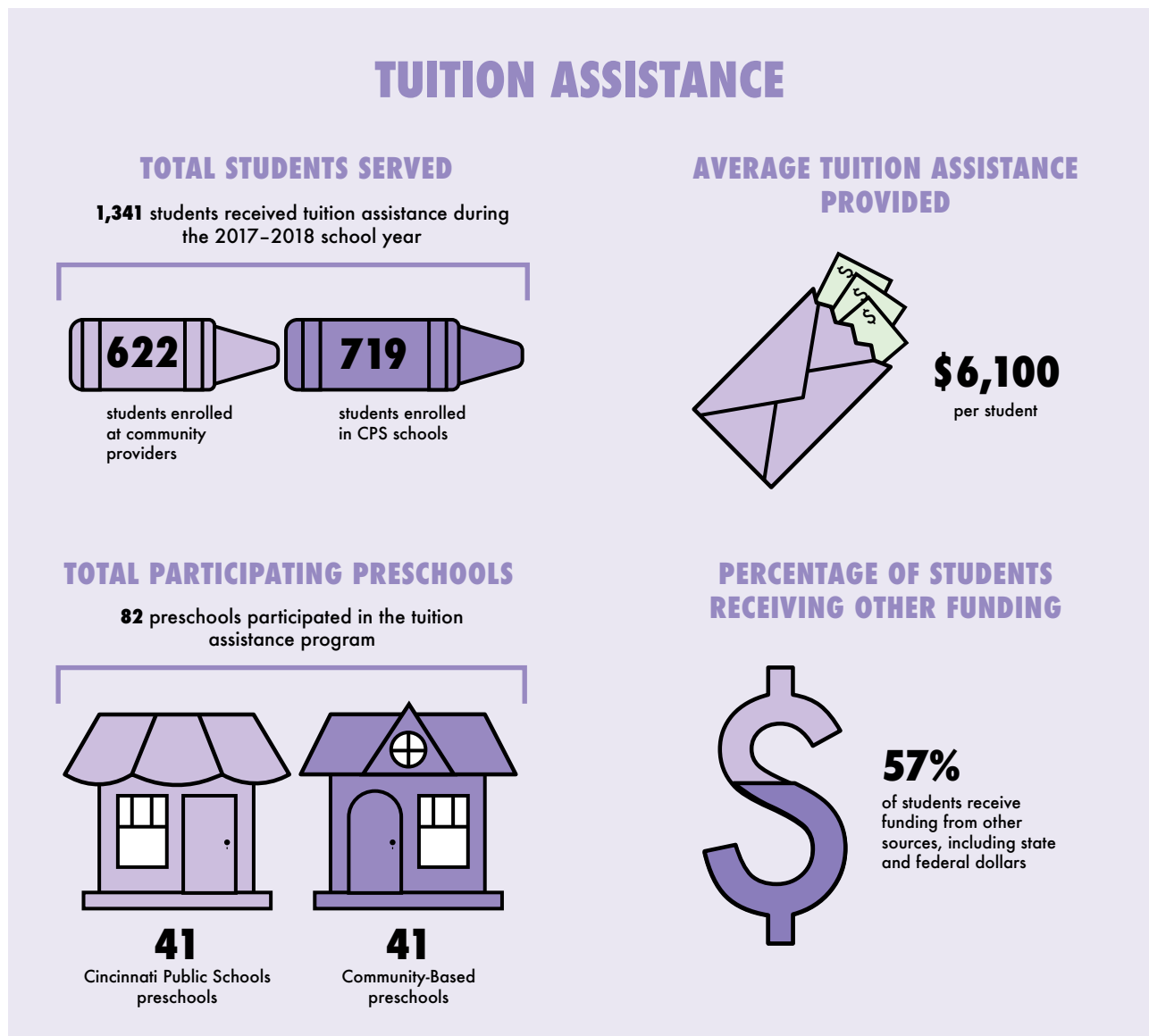
Carolyn Jones, Cincinnati Public School Board of Education President
Michael J. Graham, S.J., Xavier University President and Cincinnati Preschool Promise Board of Managers Chair

T U I T I O N A S S I S T A N C E

Through **Cincinnati Preschool Promise**, families can apply for and receive tuition assistance to high-quality, 3-, 4-, or 5-star rated preschool programs throughout the city.

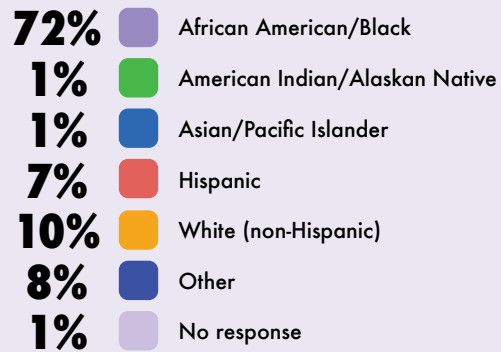
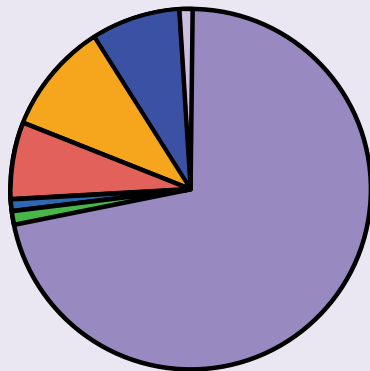
Tuition assistance is available to qualified families who have a preschool-aged child, live within the Cincinnati Public School District boundaries, and meet income guidelines. During the 2017-18 school year, Cincinnati Preschool Promise was able to support families living up to 200% of the federal poverty line (around \$50,000 for a family of four).

As “last-dollar-in” tuition assistance, Cincinnati Preschool Promise layers on top of other funding sources, such as Head Start, Publicly Funded Childcare and monies from the Ohio Department of Education. This stretches our public dollars further to cover more children.

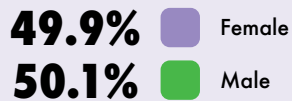
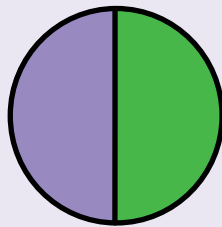


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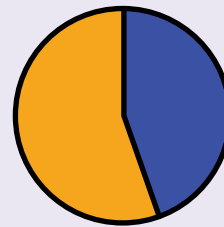
DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN



GENDER



AGE



The Forneys' Story

Nakesha Forney wasn't sure how to find a high-quality, affordable preschool for her son Landon until she heard about Cincinnati Preschool Promise.

"He needed to be in preschool," she said. "He needed that for his success. There is no way he would have started kindergarten off on the right foot had it not been for the Cincinnati Preschool Promise. It was really beneficial for my family financially. Otherwise, we wouldn't have been able to afford preschool."

Using Cincinnati Preschool Promise tuition assistance, Nakesha enrolled Landon at Little Blossoms Academy in College Hill. Now, a year later, she's confident he will be ready to start kindergarten at Parker Woods Montessori, a CPS school, in the fall.



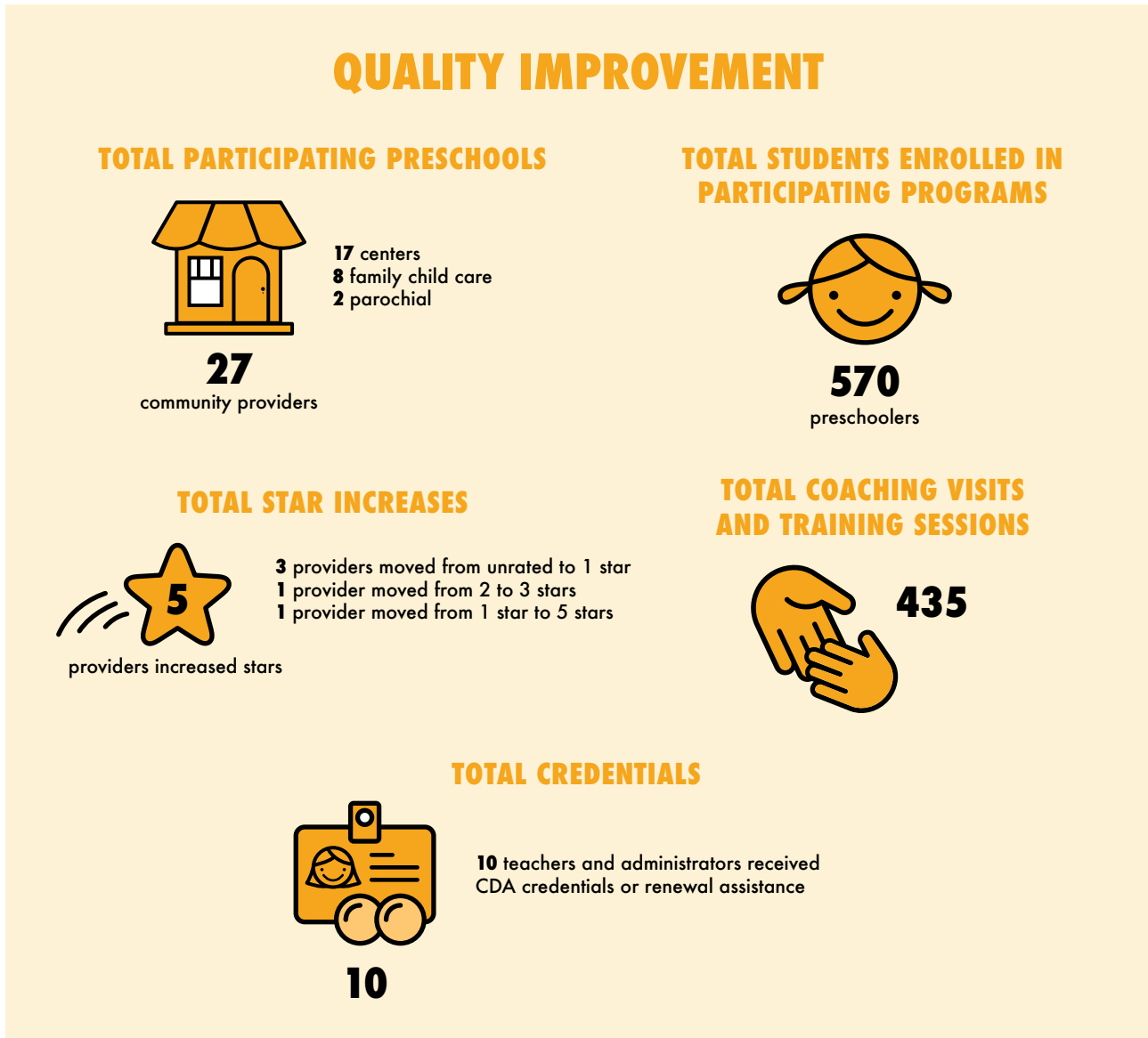
Landon and Nakesha. Photo courtesy of Lucy May, WCPO.

"I'm excited for him because he'll have the hang of being in school," she said. "He went all day so he's gotten the hang of personal space, community, sharing and the gist of education and learning. He needed all of that. Small beginnings matter."

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Through **Cincinnati Preschool Promise**, community-based preschool providers can receive supports to increase their quality through the State of Ohio's Step Up to Quality system. Participants receive personalized support, including a quality improvement plan, one-on-one coaching and teacher training. All supports align with SUTQ requirements so participants feel confident that they can increase their quality and star rating. This process can be daunting, time-consuming and expensive without extra support.

Throughout the first year, Quality Improvement participants received coaching to better understand child development, learn from instructional advice and share best business practices. Cincinnati Preschool Promise was also able to help supply classroom materials, such as curriculum sets and learning resources, as well as trainings and workshops for preschool teachers.



Daddy's Daycare 5-Star Rating

In 2010, Dennis and Melena Campbell opened Daddy's Daycare Child Development Center in the West End. It was a homecoming for Dennis, a graduate of Taft High School who grew up in the West End, and the pair hoped to get involved in the local community.

"Growing up, he always thought success was moving out of the neighborhood," Melena explained. "But after living outside the city, we realized that success is coming back to make a difference for the neighborhood."

In June 2018, Daddy's Daycare increased from 1 star to 5 stars – the highest rating from the State of Ohio's Step Up to Quality Rating System.

"It's a dream come true," Melena said. "I'm thankful because everyone here has worked so hard."

The center has been working with Cincinnati Preschool Promise's Quality Improvement program throughout the past year to increase quality. Through the program, administration and staff received business coaching and classroom materials to meet Step Up to Quality requirements.

"When I submitted our application for Cincinnati Preschool Promise, I wasn't totally sure what the outcome would be," Melena admits. "But I had nothing to lose."

Throughout the past year, Melena worked with coach DeAnna Lane from Cincinnati Early Learning Centers. They focused on organizational structure, budgeting, staff evaluations, enrollment and other best business practices. DeAnna also offered motivation and support when things got tough.

"She would say, 'you can do it. You'll get through this,'" Melena said. "I felt renewed after every visit, which motivated me to keep going, and it allowed me to walk into every classroom encouraging and motivating children and staff."

Originally, Daddy's Daycare planned to submit paperwork for their 3-star rating. But DeAnna encouraged them to aim higher. While waiting for the SUTQ visit, DeAnna and Melena supported staff with practice interviews, classroom observations and preparation meetings.

"We are very thankful for the commitment from Cincinnati Preschool Promise and DeAnna Lane," Melena said. "Your passion and unending determination has allowed us to achieve a 5-star rating and provide the highest level of quality care."



"It's a dream come true."

-Melena Campbell, owner

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS



Cincinnati Preschool Promise team fully staffed this year.



78% of funding was focused on programs, which included tuition assistance, quality improvement and special education services.

1,000 people engaged in the United Way of Greater Cincinnati's "Stuff the Streetcar" event to collect supplies for Cincinnati Preschool Promise students and providers.



128 community-based providers participated in a wage survey and discussion that provided baseline data and insight into salaries and benefits throughout the sector.



501(c)(3) status achieved.



Four talented storytellers shared their journeys and how Cincinnati Preschool Promise has impacted their lives.



Cincinnati Preschool Promise completed audited financials for its first year of operation.



Over 85 community events attended or organized throughout the year, to spread the word about Cincinnati Preschool Promise.



Volunteers handwrote over 650 thank-you notes to every preschool provider in the city.


WITH THANKS


Thank you to our community of supporters, especially those who endorsed Issue 44 and have continued to support our work:

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| <p>4C for Children
 Adath Israel
 AFL-CIO Labor Council
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 AFSCME Local 232
 AFSCME Local 4023
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 Cincinnati Association
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 Greater Cincinnati Building Construction Trades Council
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 Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)
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 The Children’s Home of Cincinnati
 The Drifters, Inc.
 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 75
 United Way of Greater Cincinnati
 Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio
 Woman’s City Club (WCC)
 YMCA of Greater Cincinnati
 YWCA of Greater Cincinnati</p> |
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Thank you to those who served on Cincinnati Public Schools Board of Education and the Cincinnati Preschool Promise Board of Managers throughout the past year. We appreciate your continued leadership and support.

CPS Board of Education

- Carolyn Jones
- Ericka Copeland-Dansby
- Melanie Bates
- Eve Bolton
- Ozie Davis III
- Ryan Messer
- Mike Moroski

Cincinnati Preschool Promise Board of Managers

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael J. Graham, S.J. Pastor Ennis Tait Deborah Allsop Terri England Christine Fisher / Jasmine Jones Tim Fogarty / Gary Lindgren Micah Kamrass Dr. Kimya Moyo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilynn O’Neal O’dell Moreno Owens, M.D., M.P.H. John E. Pepper Cheryl Rose Laura Sanregret Steve Shifman Sallie Westheimer |
|---|---|

TO OUR COMMUNITY :

To truly understand the impact of Cincinnati Preschool Promise, we must look toward the future.

Our soon-to-be kindergartners will graduate in 2031. They will receive high school diplomas, go to college or career training, and enter the workforce. They will become our neighbors, colleagues and leaders. They will be our doctors, teachers and elected officials.

What better way to impact this future generation than with equitable access to high-quality preschool?

Preschool provides a strong, equal start to school and life. It creates confidence, teaches leadership skills, and inspires children to imagine and explore.

And it gives students a foundation on which they will continue to learn and grow.

In our first year, we made tremendous progress. But we know there is still work to do. We hope to build on our successes and learn from our challenges to enroll more students, reach more families, support providers to address wages, and increase quality preschool seats in every community.

We know Cincinnati Preschool Promise will be successful, thanks to your continued support. Just as it took the entire community to make this dream a reality, it will be all-hands-on-deck to make it a success.

Let's work together to build a city where our 2031 graduates flourish.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in white ink on a blue background. The signature on the left is 'Laura Mitchell' and the signature on the right is 'Shiloh Turner'.

Laura Mitchell, Cincinnati Public Schools Superintendent
Shiloh Turner, Cincinnati Preschool Promise Executive Director



Connect with us



2400 Reading Rd, Suite 220, Cincinnati, OH 45202



513-447-4CPP (4277)



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