



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

2013

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

As Mayor of the City of Chicago, I believe the most important thing we can do for our city is set our children on a path for success. I am committed to providing every student in Chicago with a world class education – from cradle to career, from pre-kindergarten to college, regardless of where they live. There is no better foundation we can provide for our children’s success and our city’s future than the critical investments we are making in early childhood education.

While many early learning programs across the nation are facing cuts, we are increasing funding to our early learning program with a three-year, \$36 million investment in early learning programs across the city. This commitment to early childhood education complements our effort to provide universal kindergarten for every child for the first time. We are doing everything we can to ensure that our students are ready to learn and succeed.

We are increasing the quality and quantity of early learning options in communities where they have been limited in the past. In neighborhoods across the City, we are adding new opportunities for 2,300 children. We are also providing 2,000 children with access to the nationally renowned Child-Parent Center model classrooms, adding 500 new opportunities for families of babies and toddlers, adding over 100 new full-day pre-k seats for children and setting aside 200 more seats to serve students with special needs. And this fall, we will open an Early Learning Center in Englewood that will serve more than 370 children and their families.

These programs benefit our children and help parents be strong partners in their children’s education from the beginning. Investing in these high quality early education options pays dividends for our children and our communities. As President Obama stated in his State of the Union Address, “Every dollar we invest in high-quality early education can save more than seven dollars later on – by boosting graduation rates, reducing teen pregnancy, even reducing violent crime.”

And while I am proud that we have increased access to early childhood education and full day kindergarten, I know the most important door a child walks through is the front door of her home. Parents and families serve as their child’s first and most important educators.

From early learning through college, we are making the essential investments that support our students’ success. Investing in the critical early years of a child’s education is the most important foundation we can provide for their future and our future as a City that provides every child, in every community, with an education that matches their great potential.

Sincerely,

Mayor