



December 4, 2025

Re: Kentucky Chambers of Commerce Supporting Pre-K for All

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As Presidents and CEOs from chambers of commerce across the Commonwealth, we urge your support for the Pre-K for All initiative. It would expand Kentucky's voluntary publicly-funded preschool program, so every Kentucky four-year-old has an opportunity at a strong start and parents have an opportunity to return to the workforce.

We know early childhood education is critical to preparing children for a successful career. We also know it would provide financial relief to families, boost our local economies, increase workforce participation, and be a major investment in Kentucky's long-term competitiveness.

American families are struggling to pay the bills and lack of childcare is a major reason. Pre-K for All can help families save money and boost household earnings by nearly \$9,000 dollars each year for at least six years. That's \$54,000 more dollars in a family's pocket, flowing through local economies, creating and maintaining jobs, and growing businesses like the ones we represent.

We've heard it from parents, teachers, community leaders, and business owners: **Pre-K works**. But right now, only 14,000 of Kentucky's 54,000 four-year-olds have access to it.

The research is overwhelming and success is undeniable. Pre-K improves kindergarten readiness, boosts high school graduation rates, and raises overall lifetime earnings. When parents have access to affordable Pre-K, they can work. When parents save thousands on childcare costs, they have more money to spend at our local businesses – supporting our members. In a state where nearly two-thirds of counties lack sufficient childcare, **Pre-K is not just about education—it's an economic development investment that will keep Kentucky moving forward.**

Here's what the data tells us:

- **Improves Kindergarten Readiness:** Over half – 53.8% – of Kentucky's children arrive at kindergarten already behind. Pre-K for All would close this gap and make sure every Kentucky child has a strong start.
- **Increases Workforce Participation:** Up to 70,000 Kentuckians are unable to work because they lack childcare. Pre-K for All will let parents reenter the workforce and take advantage of local job opportunities in our cities and towns across Kentucky.
- **Raises Household Incomes:** A long-term study shows that families with access to Pre-K earn nearly **\$9,000 more per year** – gains that persist for years after their child completes Pre-K.

- **Delivers a 10:1 Return on Investment:** Every dollar invested in Pre-K yields ten dollars in return – from better jobs and health outcomes to reduced criminal justice costs and increased educational attainment.
- **Creates Jobs in Education:** Pre-K for All will generate demand for educators and support staff across the state, creating new careers, and helping attract talent to our towns and cities.
- **Expands Access Across Kentucky:** With 79 of Kentucky's 120 counties having little to no childcare available, this initiative will expand access, create job opportunities, give parents a choice, and lay the foundation for academic success.

As chambers of commerce, we are committed to the success of Kentucky business, helping children thrive, attracting and retaining talent, and building a more competitive workforce for the future.

Our families and local businesses cannot wait. We urge the General Assembly to make expanding Pre-K access for all Kentucky four-year-olds a top priority in the 2026 Budget Session. Together, we can build a stronger, more competitive Kentucky with Pre-K for All.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We stand ready to support this effort and work together for a stronger, more competitive Kentucky.

Respectfully,

*The Undersigned Chambers of Commerce of the
Commonwealth of Kentucky*

Kentucky Chambers of Commerce Supporting Expanding Pre-School Access

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Anderson County Chamber of
Commerce

Ballard County Chamber of Commerce

Barren Inc., the Barren County
Chamber of Commerce

Bowling Green Area Chamber of
Commerce

Bracken County Chamber of
Commerce

Caldwell County Chamber of
Commerce

Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of
Commerce

Danville-Boyle County Chamber of
Commerce

Edmonton-Metcalf County Chamber
of Commerce

Fleming County Chamber of
Commerce

Floyd County Chamber of Commerce

Frankfort Area Chamber of Commerce

Franklin-Simpson County Chamber of
Commerce

Frenchburg-Menifee County Chamber
of Commerce

Grant County Chamber of Commerce

Grayson County Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Louisville Inc.

Hazard-Perry County Chamber of
Commerce

Hopkins County Regional Chamber of
Commerce

City of Jackson-Breathitt County
Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky Lake Chamber of Commerce
in Marshall County

Liberty-Casey County Chamber of
Commerce

Lincoln County Chamber of
Commerce

Logan County Chamber of Commerce

London-Laurel County Chamber of
Commerce

Louisville Independent Business
Alliance

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Manchester-Clay County Chamber of
Commerce

Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of
Commerce

Maysville-Mason County Chamber of
Commerce

Meade County Area Chamber of
Commerce

Monticello-Wayne County Chamber of
Commerce

Morehead-Rowan County Chamber of
Commerce

Morgan County Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Muhlenberg Chamber of
Commerce

Brent Cooper, in his capacity as
President and CEO of the Northern
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Oldham County Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Owensboro Chamber of
Commerce

Rockcastle County Chamber of
Commerce

Russell County Chamber of Commerce

Shelby County Chamber of Commerce

Southeast Kentucky Chamber of
Commerce

St. Matthews Chamber of Commerce

Tri-City Chamber of Commerce

Winchester-Clark County Chamber of
Commerce

Attachments:

Letter from the Georgetown-Scott County Chamber of Commerce

Resolution from the Morehead-Rowan County Chamber of Commerce

Resolution from Danville-Boyle County Economic Development

Corporation



December 1, 2025

Dear Kentucky Senators and Representatives,

As President of the Georgetown/Scott County Chamber of Commerce, we urge your support for the “Pre-K for All” initiative. It would expand Kentucky’s voluntary publicly funded preschool program, so every Kentucky four-year-old has an opportunity at a strong start and parents have an opportunity to return to the workforce. We know early childhood education is critical to preparing our children for a successful career. We also know it would provide financial relief to families, boost our local economies, increase workforce participation, and be a major investment in Kentucky’s long-term competitiveness.

Pre-K improves kindergarten readiness, boosts high school graduation rates, and raises overall lifetime earnings. When parents have access to affordable Pre-K, they can work. When parents save thousands on childcare costs, they have more money to spend at our local businesses – supporting our members. Pre-K is not just about education; it’s an economic development investment. We are committed to the success of our businesses and those of the Commonwealth. We urge the General Assembly to make expanding Pre-K access for all Kentucky four-year-olds a top priority in the 2026 Budget Session. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Lynn Godsey



President

Board Resolution of Support: Pre-K for All Initiative

WHEREAS, the **Morehead-Rowan County Chamber of Commerce** recognizes that a strong, vibrant local economy depends upon a skilled workforce and the availability of essential support services for working families; and

WHEREAS, a lack of accessible and affordable high-quality early childhood education and childcare options presents a significant barrier to workforce participation, particularly for parents who have exited the workforce; and

WHEREAS, high-quality Pre-Kindergarten education has been scientifically proven to ensure that **four-year-old children** are developmentally and academically prepared for successful entry into Kindergarten, thereby strengthening the future educational pipeline and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, the **Pre-K for All Initiative** aims to provide invaluable access to affordable, high-quality early learning opportunities, directly addressing the critical need for childcare and early education within Morehead and Rowan County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Board of Directors of the Morehead-Rowan County Chamber of Commerce** hereby formally expresses its full and unequivocal support for the **Pre-K for All Initiative** and urges its swift implementation, recognizing its fundamental importance in:

- 1 **Expanding Access to Affordable Childcare Options** for all working families.
- 2 **Ensuring Kindergarten Readiness** for all four-year-old residents.
- 3 **Facilitating the Successful Return of Parents to the Workforce**, thereby promoting economic growth and stability across the local community.

CERTIFICATION:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Morehead-Rowan County Chamber of Commerce at a meeting held on this 30th day of October, 2025, and that said Resolution is passed.



Chairman of the Board



President



Resolutions Adopted, August 20, 2025, by the Danville-Boyle County Development Corporation Related to Early Childhood Education, Childcare, and Pre-K Funding for Public School

Context for Request

In the June 25, 2025, monthly meeting of the Workforce Development Committee, members of that Committee discussed the closing of the Jennie Rogers Early Learning Center, and its effects on area families, our local workforce, and current and potential new employers. In light of years of looking at the unequivocal importance of quality childcare and preschool education for all children to be Kindergarten-ready, members voted unanimously to request that the DBCDC Board of Directors pass a resolution of strong support for a community early childhood education center to be operated at the Jennie Rogers property. Furthermore, members requested that the Board of Directors include in the resolution the Board's support and advocacy for adequate and sustained funding for Universal Pre-K in the public schools in Danville and Boyle County and across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

First Resolution: In Support of a Community Early Childhood Education Center at the Jennie Rogers Property

WHEREAS, during the June 25, 2025, monthly meeting of the Workforce Development Committee, members discussed the impending closure of the Jennie Rogers Early Learning Center and its anticipated effects on local families, the regional workforce, and both current and prospective employers in the Danville-Boyle County area; and

WHEREAS, the availability of affordable, quality childcare and preschool education is a vital component of workforce stability and economic development in the community; and

WHEREAS, members of the Workforce Development Committee voted unanimously to advocate for continued early childhood education opportunities to be maintained at the Jennie Rogers property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors sees the economic efficiency of the community's utilizing a facility and space that is centrally located and recently renovated specifically to provide childcare and early education services, all in partnership with local government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Danville-Boyle County Development Corporation (DBCDC) Board of Directors expresses its strong support for the establishment and operation of a community early childhood education center at the Jennie Rogers property; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the DBCDC Board of Directors will work in partnership with local and state leaders, educational institutions, families, and employers to champion equitable access to high-quality early learning opportunities as a foundation for a stronger, more resilient community and workforce.

Adopted this 20th day of August 2025.

*****Second Resolution: In of Support of Early Childhood Education and Universal Pre-K Funding**

WHEREAS, during the June 25, 2025, monthly meeting of the Workforce Development Committee, the Committee recognized the critical and well-documented role that access to high-quality early childhood education plays in ensuring children are ready for Kindergarten and long-term academic and social success; and

WHEREAS, the availability of affordable, quality childcare and preschool education is a vital component of workforce stability and economic development in the community; and

WHEREAS, members of the Workforce Development Committee voted unanimously to advocate for continued early childhood education opportunities; and

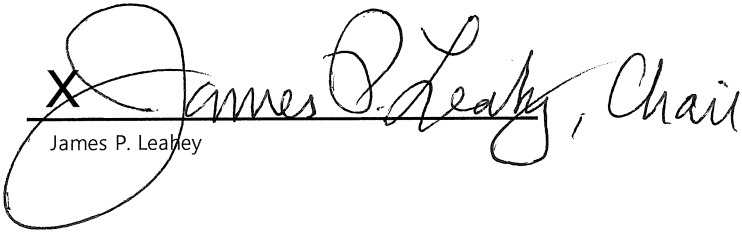
WHEREAS, The Board of Directors sees the availability of early childhood education as a matter of economic development, as well as important to the larger well-being of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Danville-Boyle County Development Corporation (DBCDC) Board of Directors expresses its support for Universal Pre-K for all children in the Danville and Boyle County public schools, as well as across the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the DBCDC Board of Directors encourages local and state leaders, educational institutions, families, and employers to secure high-quality early

learning opportunities as a foundation for a stronger, more resilient community and workforce.

Adopted this 20th day of August 2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James P. Leakey, Chair". The signature is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature, there is a small "X" mark and the printed name "James P. Leakey".

James P. Leakey