



Mayor's Commission for Children to announce results of 2022 Kindergarten Readiness Study on Tuesday

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2023

The Mayor's Commission for Children presented the 2022 Kindergarten Readiness Study findings at 8 a.m., Tuesday, April 11 at the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. This study is conducted approximately every four years. This year, the study was prepared by Dr. Melissa Duncan Fallone from the Dixon Center for Research and Service at Missouri State University.

A total of 360 surveys were completed by Springfield Public Schools teachers for a response rate of 80% percent. 2022 overall readiness results indicate 23.9 percent of those surveyed were not prepared for kindergarten.

36.6 percent of free and reduced lunch program students were reported as "not ready" while 13.5 percent of their non-free and reduced lunch program peers reported as "not ready."

53.8 percent of students who did not attend a formal preschool were reported as "not ready" as compared to 20.4 percent of their preschool-attending peers.

Springfield Public Schools continues to use new state funding to expand access to high quality early childhood education for under-resourced and underrepresented students. With the passage of the 2019 bond, the district constructed the first building designed for early childhood education and [the district added two preschool mini-hubs at the new Boyd Elementary and the new Williams Elementary](#). By maximizing the funding stream and the community's support to build a new early childhood facility, the district plans to serve approximately 1,000 4-year-olds by 2023-2024.

"This study has certainly been a cornerstone in the community for the past 17 years- fueling the energy and momentum around the importance and impact of early childhood education that has helped our community embrace the opportunities for pre-school expansion and strengthen other initiatives to remove barriers for readiness. "said Brigitte Marrs, executive director of the Mayor's Commission for Children.

"We must continue our investment in early childhood education because that is what our kids and community need and deserves. The road ahead is long, but we need people who care deeply about this work and the Mayor's Commission for Children will continue to help lead that charge. "said Brandy Harris, current chairman of the Mayor's Commission for Children.

The Kindergarten Readiness Study was made possible through the funding and support of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and Musgrave Foundation.

“As we continue our work to skill up our workforce in Springfield, we must remember that it all begins with children arriving at kindergarten ready to learn,” said Mayor Ken McClure. “I want to thank the commission and our partners for tracking this important data, and I want to commend Springfield Public Schools and the education community for their efforts to expand pre-K programs. “

About the Mayor’s Commission for Children

The Mayor’s Commission for Children was established in 2004. Our mission is to ensure every child matters by acting as a catalyst to mobilize and educate our community concerning the health and well-being of our local youth. Our vision is to be the voice for children’s issues in our community. Meetings are held at 8 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, 202 S. John Q. Hammons Parkway.

Mayor’s Commission for Children members

- Brandy Harris, chairman
- Dr. Kaleen Long, vice chairman
- Mike White
- Gerry Lee
- Dr. Tom Masterson
- Chris Jarratt
- Dr. Elizabeth Andrews
- Jennifer McClure
- Amy Chenoweth

Mayor’s Commission for Children Advisory members

- Dr. Doug McNeal
- Dr. Kayce Morton
- Kimberly Shinn Brown
- Dr. Jennifer Baker
- Alexis Brown
- Dr. Kristen Thompson
- Danielle Kincaid
- Matt Simpson
- Jhasmine Watson
- Jaimie Trussell
- Carol Wooten
- Christy Davis
- Bria Coale

- Missy Riley
- Rinda Davis

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