



It's Elementary: Just Raise Your Hands in Support of Pre-k Degreed Teachers

At a time when nearly half of Florida's children are starting school behind, quality degreed teachers are needed. What are former Governors Reubin Askew, Bob Graham, Claude Kirk Jr., Buddy Mackay, Bob Martinez, Wayne Mixson, Rhea Chiles on behalf of Lawton Chiles and current Governor Charlie Crist saying about degreed lead teachers in pre-k Classrooms?

"A quality education begins with teachers".

"Quality can't be an "aspiration." It can't be "maybe." Quality must honor the promise to every parent and grandparent of the state that Florida will deliver a high quality education no ifs, ands, or buts."

MAYORS ENDORSEMENT

WHEREAS: commitment to high quality pre-kindergarten provides significant benefits to children, families, and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS: evidence-based research shows that all children regardless of whether they are from poor, middle-or upper-income families, benefit from high-quality pre-kindergarten programs; and

WHEREAS: children who participate in high-quality pre-kindergarten programs require less special education, are less likely to repeat a grade, are less likely to need child welfare services, are less likely to engage in criminal behavior, and once they enter the workforce have higher incomes; and

WHEREAS: investment in high-quality pre-kindergarten has significant implications for future government budgets, at the national, state and city level and these benefits have been laid out by current Federal Reserve Chairman; and

WHEREAS: high-quality preschool education depends on effective, high-quality teachers the most effective pre-kindergarten teachers – those with at least a four-year college degree and specialized training in early childhood – have more responsive interactions with children, provide richer language and cognitive experiences, and are less authoritarian;

NOW, THEREFORE: As Mayor of _____, Florida, I do hereby endorse
(City)

Bachelor degreed teachers for all pre-k classrooms in Florida by 2013.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this ____ day of _____, 2009

Signature

Print Name

Children's Campaign, Inc., P.O. Box 1718, Tallahassee, FL 32302

We may use this endorsement in future Children's Campaign activities to promote and achieve mandated teacher credentials, including but not limited to media campaigns, posting on our website, and other advocacy initiatives.