

Offered by Councilor Andrea Campbell, Wu, Edwards, Breadon, Mejia, Essaibi-George, O'Malley, Flynn, Flaherty, Bok, Arroyo, Mejia, Edwards, Breadon and Janey



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE STATUS OF UNIVERSAL PRE-K GIVEN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- WHEREAS:** In April 2019, Mayor Walsh announced a \$15 million investment in grants to local nonprofits to fund an additional 750 high-quality pre-K seats for four year olds with a goal of achieving universal pre-K for four year olds by 2024; *and*
- WHEREAS:** High-quality pre-K means providing an age-appropriate and culturally responsive environment for children from birth to five years old including ensuring pre-K teachers hold a degree in early childhood education and classrooms are staffed with two educators for up to twenty students; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Boston Public Schools' (BPS) Strategic Plan for 2020-2024 calls for full implementation of universal pre-K through a mixed delivery model that leverages partnerships with school and community-based organizations; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Families from across the City have long criticized BPS for how difficult it is to navigate the application process and be selected for a coveted pre-K seat for their three or four year old student; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston continues to narrowly define pre-K and not adopt a more robust and expansive definition of universal pre-K, and not create the necessary infrastructure to assist our diverse families in navigating all the available options and systems that might provide them with a quality and affordable pre-K experience for their child from birth to five years old; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The COVID-19 pandemic has left many non-profit and community-based organizations in a budgetary crisis that has not been adequately addressed by government relief funds; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the status of the City's pre-K investment in the expansion of seats for four year olds, opportunities to expand access to high-quality pre-K seats, assistance for community based organizations and providers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and creating a more comprehensive plan to create universal pre-K from birth to five years old. Representatives from Boston Public Schools, the Department of Early Education and Care, the Citywide Parent Advisory Council,

the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement, early education professionals such as ABCD, Nurtury, and First Teacher, advocates, labor groups and the public shall be invited to testify.

Filed on: February 16, 2021