Public PreK and the Education Fund

House Committee on Ways and Means Julia Richter, Fiscal Analyst, JFO April 12, 2023



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Recall: Current PreK Expenditures in the Education Fund

- Public PreK costs are funded through the statewide Education Fund
 - In FY 2022, approximately \$64 million could be attributed to "PreK Expenditures" in the Education Fund
- Public PreK expenditures vary widely by district
 - In FY 2022, estimated per PreK pupil expenditures by district ranged from approximately \$4,300 \$21,000 per PreK pupil



Recall: PreK Expenditures are Funded Through the Education Fund and Vary By District

- Public PreK costs are funded through the statewide Education Fund
 - In FY 2022, approximately \$64 million could be attributed to "PreK Expenditures" in the Education Fund
- Public PreK expenditures vary widely by district
 - In FY 2022, estimated per PreK pupil expenditures by district ranged from approximately \$4,300 \$21,000 per PreK pupil
- PreK costs and offerings vary by school district decisions and parent decisions
 - Some school districts offer full day PreK programs, others do not.
 - Parents can decide where to send their child for PreK.



Public PreK Hours Vary By District



Notes:

- This chart only refers to the hours of public PreK and does not include hours at private providers.
- These data were collected from an informal survey of business managers and should not be considered comprehensive.
- *Source:* Informal survey of business managers by AOE; Analysis by JFO



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Estimate of Public PreK to the Education Fund

- JFO estimates the expansion of the public prekindergarten program for 4 yearolds as outlined in H.208 will cost an additional approximately \$40 million to the Education Fund
 - Absent any other changes in policy, the base homestead yield and/or base non-homestead tax rate would need to be adjusted
- This estimate is based on a number of assumptions, any of which may significantly impact the fiscal estimate
 - Required facility renovation and construction needs and costs remain unknown
 - There are significant data constraints
 - The estimate assumes current spending patterns
 - The estimate is based on current levels of education spending per equalized pupil
 - The estimate uses current PreK expenditures
 - Local spending decisions are unknown
- This estimate does not include the potential fiscal impact of public PreK on other programs or sectors



Questions?



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