

**Let's Grow Kids suggestions for S.56 universal pre-K study language  
March 3, 2023**

Building Bright Futures shall convene an advisory committee to study and prepare a report to the General Assembly detailing potential pathways for expansion of universal pre-K in Vermont. The report shall focus on expanding equitable access to universal pre-K to achieve the best outcomes for children.

Members of the study committee shall include:

- Representative of school boards
- Superintendent
- Principal
- A representative from VT-NEA
- VT Council of Special Education Administrators
- VT Curriculum Leaders Association
- 2 regional UPK coordinators
- 1 center-based private pre-K partner
- 1 family child care home private pre-K partner
- A representative from Vermont's Head Start Association
- A representative from Let's Grow Kids
- A family representative with a UPK-aged child, designated by BBF
- A family representative with a UPK-aged
- The Secretary of AOE or his designee
- The Secretary of AHS or his designee
- The co-chairs of the Task Force on the Implementation of the Pupil Weighting Factors Task Force

The report shall explore the following options for expanding universal pre-K in Vermont to a full school day, full school year program that achieves the best outcomes for children:

- Expansion of the current program through the current mixed-delivery system
- Expansion of the current program through only public school programs
- Expansion to full-day for 4-year-olds and half day (15 hours/wk) for 3-year-olds through the current mixed-delivery system
- Expansion to full-day for 4-year-olds and half day (15 hours/wk) for 3-year-olds through only public school programs
- Removal of 3-year olds from universal pre-K and expansion for 4-year-olds through the current mixed-delivery system
- Removal of 3-year olds from universal pre-K and expansion for 4-year-olds through only public school programs

Building Bright Futures has created a [list of questions](#) for consideration. We would recommend including those questions and adding the following:

- What, if any, changes need to be made to pupil weights (ADM) for pre-K students and tuition rates for private pre-K partner programs
- Existing afterschool and summer programming available for pre-K students enrolled in school-based programs and what would be needed to expand programming to serve

families' needs for child care beyond the school day, including whether changes to State Board of Education rules for extended day programming are appropriate to align with kindergarten standards.

- What are the necessary health & safety and child development standards that might not be covered by existing requirements in public schools?
- The most fiscally strategic way to sustain and expand universal pre-K
- What additional AOE personnel/resources would be needed to oversee the implementation of expansion under different models
- National best practices for universal pre-K delivery