



The Preschool Promise

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 11-1-22 ITEM NO. RA 13

October 31, 2022

Dear Chair Bronson and members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors,

The Preschool Promise (TPP) Coalition commends the Board for addressing an important component of multi-generational poverty in Pima County—lack of access to high quality early education. And we commend Pima County staff for their outstanding early success implementing the PEEPs program.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to sustaining and expanding this essential early education program. As you consider the budget for the coming year, please note that last year PEEPs served 956 kids. As of August 31 this year there are already more than 900 children receiving scholarships, of whom 401 attend public schools. The others are spread among private, public, and family home childcare, as well as extended Head Start. PEEPs has been embraced by our community, and there is already a waiting list for scholarships at several sites.

Pima County staff have been proactive in seeking private and other public support for PEEPs. They have mobilized every source of scholarship subsidies, state and federal, to stretch our local dollars as far as possible. They continue to expand the numbers of high-quality early education sites throughout the county, working creatively in collaboration with a broad range of local and state agencies, and private and public funders.

We urge you to create a revenue stream and fund that will make PEEPs a sustainable feature of life for the families of our county as we look toward the future. Please utilize all the tools at your disposal to generate revenue for the program, including but not limited to, ARPA, DES, the Pima County General Fund, Library District taxes, contributions from other jurisdictions in the County and private support.

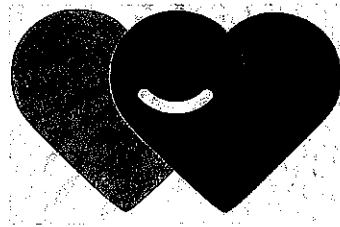
We look forward to continuing to work with you and staff, and if we can be helpful at any time, please call on us.

Below is a sample of the members of TPP. Surely some important allies have been omitted, as we are ever expanding. We are always open to new folks who care about kids. As you can see, TPP includes members with different roles in the community, different priorities, and different points of view. What we share, and share with you, is a commitment to the future prosperity of our County and the success of our youngest citizens.

Sincerely,

Penelope Jacks and Steve Lynn, TPP Co-chairs

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United Way of Tucson and Southern AZ
Southern Arizona Leadership Council
Center for Economic Integrity
Catholic Community Services
Child and Family Services
Children's Action Alliance
Our Family Services
Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
WYCA
Ohio Children's Foundation
Arizona Daily Star
Casa de los Ninos
First Things First
Dustin Williams, Superintendent of Schools
Elsa Peterson, Pima College
Bill Berk, business owner
Kevin Volk, business owner
Jamie Ratner, Professor Emeritus Rogers College of Law
Virginia Yrun, community volunteer
Erin Lyons, Child and Parent Centers (Head Start)
Roxana Rico, Continental USD
Brinton Milward, UA School of Public Policy
Mimi Nichter, Professor Emeritus, UA dept of Anthropology

And lots more