

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: June 11, 2025

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE AND THE QUALITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER EXPANDING THE CITY'S PREKINDERGARTEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO INCLUDE OPTIONS FOR THREE YEAR-OLD STUDENTS

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that while the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee evaluates the PreK 3 Scholarship Program, it also carefully considers several critical factors that will significantly impact the General Fund budget, beginning in FY 2026:

1. The City's increasing unfunded capital improvement program
2. Long-term General Fund financial projections indicating a potential shortfall in upcoming fiscal years
3. The recent notification of a \$5-6 million annual budget impact on the General Fund due to the new 2% collection fee imposed by the Miami-Dade Tax Collector
4. The passage of Amendment 5 in November 2024, which increases the homestead exemption and further constrains the growth of taxable property values

These considerations are essential to ensure that decisions regarding the PreK 3 Scholarship Program align with the City's broader long-term financial stability and strategic priorities. If the Committee recommends funding the PreK 3 Scholarship Program, the Administration recommends it be considered as part of the FY 2026 budget process for the 2026-2027 school year.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Currently, the City's Miami Beach PreK Scholarship Program is designed to expand access to Prekindergarten (PreK) for four-year-old children by providing a full day of school at no cost to families. This program complements existing state funding, where the state covers the first three hours of instruction, and the City funds the last 2.5 hours, ensuring a full day of PreK education for eligible children.

At the February 26, 2025, commission meeting, a referral (Attachment A) was made to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee and the Quality Education Committee to consider expanding the City's PreK Scholarship Program to include options for three-year-old students.

The City's PreK Scholarship Program provides for up to 219 children to receive a scholarship up to \$3,000 for the 2025-2026 school year (Attachment B). There are currently 25 PreK provider partners for the 2025-2026 school year who registered to join the City in its effort to expand access to quality early childhood education.

ANALYSIS

Based on information provided by the United States (US) Census Database through 2023, the school age population (birth to 19 years) in Miami Beach has increased by 16.3% when compared to 2013 and has increased 34.3% when compared to 2022. Approximately 21.4% of the Miami Beach resident population is school aged children.

Miami Beach School Age Population Trends US Census Data*							
Age Range	2013	2015	2019	2022	2023	% Change since 2013	% Change since 2022
Under 5 years	4,769	4,758	4,171	3,652	3,818	-19.9%	4.5%
5-9 years	3,578	3,641	4,219	2,415	4,295	20.0%	77.8%
10-14 years	3,329	2,559	3,241	3,605	4,312	29.5%	19.6%
15-19 years	2,993	3,521	3,831	3,033	4,634	54.8%	52.8%
Total	14,669	14,479	15,462	12,705	17,059	16.3%	34.3%
% MB Population	16.1%	15.7%	17.3%	15.9%	21.4%		

[*DP05: ACS Demographic and ... - Census Bureau Table](#)

Florida's School Readiness Program (SR) offers financial assistance to eligible low-income families for early education and care so they can become financially self-sufficient, and their young children can be successful in school in the future. Even before children attend prekindergarten, they gain from experiences that help them enter school ready for kindergarten. Services vary based on individual needs and range from developmental screening to child assessments for children ages birth to school-age.

Benefits of School Readiness

- Help prepare young children to start kindergarten ready to learn.
- Helps working families afford high-quality early learning services.
- Keeps parents in the workforce and/or participating in educational or training activities.
- Provides parents information about child development, early childhood screenings and family well-being.
- Parents can choose from private centers and schools, public schools, and family childcare homes.

The Miami-Dade County Public School Career & Technical College (CTE) Early Childhood Education (ECE) Learning Labs cater to children of various ages, including infants, toddlers, and children aged 3 to 5 years. The monthly tuition is between \$250 and \$300.

This item was dually referred and discussed at the March 18, 2025, Quality for Education Committee where a motion was passed (Attachment C) in support of the inclusion of 3-year-olds in the PreK Scholarship program and request to continue to engage with the Quality for Education Committee in conversations regarding the development of the initiative.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TBD

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?
(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Education and Performance Initiatives

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Laura Dominguez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez
Commissioner Joseph Magazine

Condensed Title

PreK 3 Scholarship Program Expansion