

**Board of Directors of  
United Way of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties  
Resolution No. 0011**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND KINDERGARTEN READINESS**

WHEREAS, United Way of Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties is committed to improving the lives of local community members and building strength in our community;

WHEREAS, we are committed to supporting children and families, and recognize that experiences in a child's early years have a profound impact on the rest of their lives;

WHEREAS, by investing in children, we as a community can help provide children with a strong start that helps them succeed in Kindergarten and beyond;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that early childhood education makes an impact in a child's long-term education<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, Kindergarten readiness is one indicator that helps us understand whether we as a community are investing in and supporting children and families;

WHEREAS, many children in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties enter Kindergarten without the social, emotional and academic skills they need to be successful;

WHEREAS, in many parts of our community, the percentage of children ready for Kindergarten is well below the state average. In fact, in some parts of our community over 75% of children enter Kindergarten without the social, emotional and academic skills they need to succeed<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, every child in our community deserves a strong start in life and access to a high quality education;

WHEREAS, we recognize that there are many barriers to preparing children for Kindergarten and that systemic challenges have disproportionately impacted low-income communities, communities of Black, Indigenous and people of color, English-language learners and children with disabilities.

WHEREAS, we are committed to leading with an equity lens and to removing the barriers that impact children. We are committed to empowering and strengthening systems that support families and that allow children to reach their full potential;

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<sup>1</sup> McCoy, Dana Charles, Yoshikawa, Hirokazu, Ziol-Guest, Kathleen M., Duncan, Greg J., Schindler, Holly S., Magnuson, Katherine A., Yang, Rui, Koepp, Andrew, Shonkoff, Jack P. *Impacts of Early Childhood Education on Medium- and Long-Term Educational Outcomes*. Educational Researcher, Volume 46, 2017

<sup>2</sup> Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, [www.k12.wa.us/data-reporting/data-portal](http://www.k12.wa.us/data-reporting/data-portal) (Accessed May 9, 2022)

WHEREAS, we will be guided by data and the perspectives of parents, families and caregivers. Our goal is to listen to, engage with and mobilize community members and families to increase awareness, build support, improve systems and leverage resources to support local children;

WHEREAS we recognize that we are embarking on a process that will require listening, learning, flexibility and bold action;

WHEREAS, we are committed to developing partnerships with all sectors of our community, empowering parents and families, leveraging resources and building support for solutions that help children and families. We recognize that meeting this goal will require a collaborative, community-wide effort;

WHEREAS, we are joining an alliance of leaders, community members and organizations who have worked tirelessly for children for many years and for whom we have great respect and admiration. We aim to work alongside our community members to help build partnerships and implement strategies that invest in local children and build for their future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United Way of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties will direct a portion of its budget, staff, time and focus to ensure that 80% of children in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties are prepared for Kindergarten by 2032.

PASSED and ADOPTED on July 13,2022 date by the following vote:

AYES: 13  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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Brent Freeman  
President of the Board of Directors  
United Way of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties