

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

March 28, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Month of the Young Child—April 2011

In support of Montgomery County's youngest citizens, the Montgomery County Board of Education focuses public attention on young children and their families during the Month of the Young Child. The theme for the nationally recognized celebration is "*Early Years are Learning Years.*"

The following resolution is presented for your consideration:

WHEREAS, Children's experiences from birth through the first five years of life are critical in forming the foundation for their future readiness and success as lifelong learners; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that quality intervention matters, and, when necessary developmentally appropriate supports and services are provided, all young children can and do achieve at high levels; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools' kindergarten data show that 91.7 percent of kindergarten students are able to read simple text and reached or exceeded the Text Level 4 benchmark reading level in 2010, an increase of 10.8 percent since 2006; and

WHEREAS, Data also show that 75.4 percent of kindergarten students are able to read simple text and reached or exceeded the advanced Text Level 6 benchmark in 2010, an increase of 19.1 percent since 2006; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education has implemented an Early Success Performance Plan to provide comprehensive academic supports and services to children in the early years to prepare them for later school success; and

WHEREAS, Early childhood case studies conducted by the Foundation for Child Development and the Pew Center on the States Pre-K Now campaign document the Montgomery County Public Schools Early Childhood Programs as stellar models for the nation; and

WHEREAS, The early childhood case studies also highlight the collaboration of all county early childhood stakeholders and community partners within the birth to age five community at large who are diligently working to increase opportunities for more children to receive high quality child care as well as programs and services countywide; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County's early childhood stakeholders have convened an Early Care and Education Congress Steering Committee to provide opportunities for professional development, collaboration, and dissemination of information to stakeholders and the community at large about issues and services that support young children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County recognizes that every county resident has a vested interest in the healthy development and educational success of all of the county's children; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education focuses public attention on young children and their families during April 2011, the Month of the Young Child.

JDW:jb