

# Universal Pre-K Act

**\*\*Whereas,\*\*** children deserve the right to additional, free education before entering public schools.

## **\*\*SECTION I.\*\*** Short Title

(A) Short Title.— This bill shall be cited as “The Universal Pre-K Act of 2017”

## **\*\*SECTION II.\*\*** Definitions

(A) Pre-K.—The term “Pre-K” shall be defined as education received before entering into public school.

## **\*\*SECTION III.\*\*** Universal Pre-K Grants

(A) Grants.— Should any public school district meet the requirements listed in Section IV(A), it shall qualify for a grant, the grant is to be distributed as follows:

(a) Public school districts shall receive \$20 for every student enrolled in the district.

(b) Public school districts shall receive \$24 for every student enrolled in the Pre-K program.

(c) These grants shall be distributed to qualifying school districts every two years, during the month of July.

(C) Title.— This program shall be cited as “The Universal Pre-K Grant Program” (UPGP)

**\*\*SECTION IV.\*\* Further Requirements Registration of Students**

(A) Requirements.— All public school districts within the Atlantic Commonwealth that offer a Pre-K program at no cost to the enrollees or their parents/guardians shall qualify for grants. Further requirements for the Pre-K system is as follows:

- (a) The program must operate at no payment to the enrollees parents or guardians.
- (b) Students enrolled in this program must be enrolled in this program before entering public primary schools.
- (c) The program has over 30 students registered in it.
- (d) Teachers teaching in the public school system who volunteer to instruct students in this program are compensated an additional \$40 per student they instruct in said program annually.
- (e) Teachers who volunteer may teach a maximum of 25 students.

(B) Eligibility.— All children between the ages of 3-5 years old that have not entered public primary school, may be enrolled into this program.

(C) Record Keeping.— All districts must collect records of students enrolled in this program. The Department of Education is to use these records to distribute grants.

(D) Registration of Students.— Students may be enrolled in this program by their parents or guardians. Districts are responsible for the enrollment of students in this program.

#### **\*\*SECTION V.\*\* Payment**

(A) Assisted Funding of Universal Pre-K.— The Department of Education shall allocate up to no less than 15% and up to 50% of its appropriated funds to assist public school districts in the following.—

(a) Paying up to 20% of the salary of instructors in this program, should the school district have less than 4,000 students enrolled in it.

(b) Paying up to 40% of the cost to transport students to and from the Pre-K program.

#### **\*\*SECTION VI.\*\* Funding**

(A) Appropriations.— The Department of Education is hereby appropriated \$200,000,000 to distribute these grants and to assist public school districts as described in Section V.

**\*\*SECTION VII.\*\*** Enactment

(A) **\*\*Enactment\*\***.—This bill shall take effect 30 days after its passage into law.

(B) **\*\*Severability\*\***.—If any part of this act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, that declaration shall have no effect on the parts which remain.

This bill was written and sponsored by /u/jangus530