

From: **Su White, ECE** <su@quarryhillschool.org>
Date: Fri, Oct 11, 2024 at 8:27 PM
Subject: UPK testimony/comments
To: PEIC Committee Members

Hello Molly and all of members of the Prekindergarten Education Implementation Committee-

My name is Su White. I am the Teaching Director at the Quarry Hill School in Middlebury. We are a small non-profit center with 31 students in 5 UPK districts. We average between 30-35 preschoolers annually and partner with 4-5 districts each year. Roughly 2/3 of our students are "4's" and the remainder are 3 year olds. We also have a few children who are kindergarten eligible and, for a variety of reasons, their families have chosen another year of prek in our program. Their funding will end when they turn 6 if it is during the school year.

The draft report that was issued earlier this month provided interesting information about the committee's process and thinking.

I am grateful to learn that the report reflects keeping the current mixed delivery system for both 3 and 4 year olds. This aspect of mixed age is foundational to our program and provides deep learning and community development in our preschool classrooms.

The prek funding for all of our 3-5 year old students is critical to the success of our organization and underpins the equity implied in UNIVERSAL PreK.

I hope the commitment to both mixed delivery and multage funding remains in the final draft, reflecting Vermont's status as a national leader in providing high quality universal prek - supporting families and children in this very important developmental and educational time.

While our system is not perfect, your work to change things for the better can be made without changing these two critical components.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this important work. I will continue to follow your progress and forward to the second and final drafts.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or for further information at the contacts below.

Sincerely,
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