

From: **Susan Pare** <starkscoop@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 11:06 AM
Subject: Mixed Delivery System for Pre-K
To: PEIC Committee Members

Hello Pre-Kindergarten Implementation Committee Members,

I've been the director at Starksboro Cooperative Preschool since 1988, and have been involved with implementing UPK since well before Act 166 was passed.

I am writing to express my fervent belief that a mixed-delivery system for delivering pre-kindergarten services is best for three, four and five year olds enrolled in a preschool program.

Our program is currently housed at Robinson Elementary School in Starksboro, while our building prepares for a major renovation that will allow us to open a second classroom. Though we are exceedingly grateful to the MAUSD for allowing us space during this time, it is obvious that the elementary school is not the ideal place for a full time preschool program. This building was not constructed for children under the age of five, and does not adequately support their needs, or the dictates of our license with CDD. We can't access any of the playground equipment, since it is rated for children aged 5 and up, and bathrooms are not big enough for children not yet potty trained, to name a few of biggest concerns.

We are addressing all issues as they come up and as best we can, because we are preschool teachers, a particularly talented group of super heroes! We happen to have a large group of very young three year olds this year, so issues are exceptionally problematic this year.

We can't thank the Robinson School and MAUSD enough for their help in providing us a transitional classroom, but we are dearly missing our own space, where we can attend to the unique needs of 3-5 year olds and their families in a more nurturing and positive way.

Please feel free to follow up with any questions you might have, and thank you for your time and for the valuable work you are doing!

Susan

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