COLLEGE READINESS STARTS HERE.

Fewer than half (48%) of children who live below the poverty line are ready for kindergarten, compared to three-fourths (75%) of children who come from homes earning middle to high family incomes.1

Entering school ready to learn “can improve one’s chances of reaching middle-class status by age 40 by about 8 percentage points.” 2

Given that early social performance and academic achievement are predictors of later school success, ensuring that children get off to a good start in kindergarten is critical.3

WHAT WE KNOW...

1 Researcher believe the educational achievement gap starts well before kindergarten. The most effective solution is to prevent the achievement gap before it starts.

2 Achievement gaps can be detected as early as third-grade. Today, only 61% of DPS third-graders are proficient in reading.4 In C2K’s target area, fewer than half (47%) of third-graders are proficient.

3 Third-grade reading proficiency is an important indicator for future success. In fact, third-grade students who are not proficient in reading are 4x more likely to drop out of high school.5

3 SOURCE: Harvard research project 2012, Ready for Success: Creating collaborative and thoughtful transitions into kindergarten.
4 SOURCE: Third-grade TCAP reading scores 2013, DPS
5 SOURCE: Annie E. Casey, Double Jeopardy
WHAT IS DENVER’S COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN (C2K)?

• C2K is a program in Southwest Denver designed to improve third-grade reading scores and overall educational achievement for at-risk students.

• C2K provides a seamless transition from preschool to kindergarten in order to maximize and build upon gains made, and ensure that all students enter school ready for success.

First Year Goals

1. **Align** expectations, assessments, and educational opportunities around a common definition of kindergarten readiness.
2. **Improve** communication between preschool and elementary school systems.
3. **Provide** professional development opportunities for preschool directors, teachers, and principals.
4. **Engage** parents in workshops and other activities that assist them in supporting a seamless and effective transition to kindergarten.
5. **Measure** program effectiveness in order to improve services and replicate the work in other parts of the City.

C2K's first year focuses on nine Southwest Denver elementary schools:

- Barnum
- Castro
- CMS (Schenck)
- Doull
- Force
- Knapp
- Munroe
- Newlon
- Godsman

Plus their ECE programs, Pascual LeDoux Academy, and select neighborhood preschools.

C2K is supported by the Denver Education Compact

Launched in October 2011 by Mayor Hancock, The Compact is a collaboration between 20+ key Denver institutions to create a robust educational continuum for Denver's youth, from cradle to career.

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2013/2014 Calendar of Events

For more information, go to: denvergov.org/c2k

**September 24, 2013**

at 4:00PM

Join us for our kickoff event at Pascual LeDoux Academy, a Center for Early Education

Located on the Kepner Middle School campus

**October to December 2013**

- Mini-summit full-day workshop for leaders and teachers
  **TOPIC: Transitions**
- Parent workshop
  **TOPIC: Transitions and CHOICE**
- Teacher exchanges

**January to March 2014**

- Parent workshop
  **TOPIC: What it means to be kindergarten ready**
- Teacher workshop
  **TOPIC: School readiness and transition planning**
- Teacher exchanges

**April to June 2014**

- Parent workshop
  **TOPIC: Making the most of summer months and starting a home library**
- Student tours of new schools
- Mini-summit half-day workshop for leaders and teachers
  **TOPIC: Next steps in transitions**