



## Cuyahoga County commissioners award \$2.6 million to pre-K programs

By Karl Turner, The Plain Dealer

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CLEVELAND — Cuyahoga County commissioners got some cheers this morning from preschoolers awarded \$2.6 million for universal pre-kindergarten.

A score of kids, parents and administrators crowded the commissioners meeting room, hoisting signs reading, "Yay for UPK!" and presenting construction paper thank-you cards to the commissioners.

### Commissioners adjust meeting schedule:

The commissioners canceled next week's regular Thursday meeting because Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones will be on vacation. They will meet instead at 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 17. The normal schedule will resume Thursday, Aug. 27.

"All of you hold your signs up, point them at the cameras there," Commissioner Tim Hagan said. "We'd like that to be the lead on the news."

Awarding money to 23 preschools and child care programs was the biggest news of the hour-long commissioner's meeting.

Deputy Administrator Lee Trotter fist-bumped the kids in the first row.

Rebekah Dorman, director of the county's Invest in Children program, thanked the commissioners for their support.

"Quite simply, young children who we invest in, grow up to be happy and productive adults who contribute to our community, instead of draining it of resources," she said.

The grants, ranging from \$16,000 to \$290,000, improve the quality of education and pay for scholarships, Dorman said. In its three years, the program has improved cognitive development and literacy skills.

The commissioners voted unanimously to award the grants. Kids, parents and administrators applauded, chanting in unison, "Thank you!"

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