

PRESS RELEASE

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More than 200 4-year olds can now attend preschool for FREE at South St. Paul Public Schools

South St. Paul -- August 28, 2017: The Minnesota Department of Education has announced that South St. Paul's Lincoln Center Elementary School will receive state funding to provide FREE "Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten" classes for nearly 100 additional four-year old children. This is on top of the state funding provided last year for more than 100 four-year olds to attend pre-kindergarten classes at Kaposia Education Center.

The result: more than 200 South St. Paul four-year olds can now attend preschool half-day (AM or PM), Monday-Friday at no charge to their families at either Lincoln or Kaposia. With a typical incoming kindergarten class of 220-240 students, this means the vast majority of district four-year olds are eligible for this quality learning opportunity.

Voluntary pre-kindergarten funding was established by Governor Dayton and the 2016 Minnesota Legislature to provide high-quality early learning programming to prepare children for success when they enter kindergarten. Research shows that children who receive a quality early childhood experience are more likely to succeed in school. And since South St. Paul has the highest level of poverty in Dakota County, the state funding for these classes is especially needed.

In South St. Paul Community Preschool, families can still choose the three day per week preschool for four-year-olds at Lincoln Center, and the two day program for three-year-olds at both elementary schools. As a result of the additional state funding for early learning, students in these existing classes will now have even more access to scholarships and reduced prices.

Families interested in learning more about early learning options in South St. Paul Schools should call South St. Paul Community Preschool: 651-457-9418.