



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

(202) 724-8068

KEVIN P. CHAVOUS  
Councilmember-Ward 7  
Chairman  
Education, Libraries  
and Recreation

March 8, 2002

Dear Resident:

Last summer, with the support of my colleagues on the City Council, the Mayor, and our School Board, I introduced legislation that would begin the educational process at the age of three for children residing in the District of Columbia. This legislation would pave the way for compulsory pre-kindergarten and allow the school system to take more responsibility for all 3 and 4 year olds in the District who may otherwise not be exposed to positive, pre-learning environments, and help better prepare them for elementary school. This proposed legislation, if passed, would be the first law of its kind in the nation. I have taken this legislative step as part of a larger plan to put forth initiatives that will rally parents, citizens, neighborhoods and communities working around a collaborative in the ways the city can nurture and educate our children in the District. As this legislation is unprecedented, it requires much thought, community involvement, and development to assure its effectiveness in reaching positive outcomes for our children.

To assist in the practical implementation of this bold initiative, I have partnered with Ben Ladner, President of The American University, and appointed a Commission on Primary Education Reform ("Commission"). The Commission's charge was to develop a blueprint for implementation of the legislation.

It is in this context that I have planned City Wide Town Hall meetings in each of the City's four school districts to address recommendations, inquiries and concerns that residents may have regarding the issue of compulsory pre-k education. The Commission will also present its findings at each town hall meeting. All meetings are scheduled to be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information on the City Wide Town Hall Meetings or for special assistance, contact our office at (202) 724-8068.

The City Wide Town Hall Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- 3/28/02 District 4 (Wards 7 and 8) **H.D. Woodson Senior High 5500 Eads St., N.E.**
- 4/10/02 District 3 (Wards 5 and 6) **Backus Middle School 5171 S. Dakota Ave., N.E.**
- 4/17/02 District 2 (Wards 3 and 4) **American University, Kay Spiritual Life Center  
4400 Massachusetts Ave, N.W**
- 4/30/02 District 1 (Wards 1 and 2) **Adams Elementary School 2020 19<sup>th</sup> St., N.W.**

Sincerely,

Kevin P. Chavous  
Councilman, Ward 7  
Chair, Committee on Education, Libraries and Recreation