

1 **RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION IN SUPPORT OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION**

2 Submitted by The Public Education Advocacy Team

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4 WHEREAS, The Hebrew Scriptures tell us “Children are the heritage of God, (Psalm 127: 3a,
5 NIV) and “Start children off on the way they should and even when they are old, they
6 will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6, NIV); and
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8 WHEREAS, In the Gospel of John he recounts what Jesus says to the Pharisees “I have come
9 that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10b, NIV); and
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11 WHEREAS, “Preschool is one of the smartest and most critical investments we can make. By
12 getting our children off to a strong start, we not only increase their individual chances for
13 lifelong success, but also ensure our entire nation is on the path to a strong future.” ~
14 Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education ~ April, 2013; and
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16 WHEREAS, “Studies prove that children who have rich early learning experiences are better
17 prepared to thrive in school. Yet the United States ranks 28th in the world for the
18 enrollment of 4-year-olds in early learning, and 25th in public investment in preschool.
19 Only 3 in 10 children attend a quality preschool program. Doing better is more than just a
20 moral and educational imperative; it’s smart government: a public dollar spent on high-
21 quality preschool returns \$7 through increased productivity and savings on public
22 assistance and criminal justice. From a growing number of voices, including from the
23 recently concluded work of the Equity and Excellence Commission, the call has been
24 clear to expand quality early learning in the United States.” ~ ED.gov Blog April 11,
25 2013; and
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27 WHEREAS, The Connecticut Conference has consistently advocated for high-quality integrated
28 education, with resolutions adopted as far back, in recent history, starting in 1972; and
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30 WHEREAS, All children in Connecticut (CT) have the right to a high quality education from
31 prekindergarten through high school; and
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33 WHEREAS, The right to high quality education for the children of Connecticut is a justice issue;
34 and
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36 WHEREAS, Parents of all children should be supported in fostering a love for learning in their
37 children as an extension of their natural curiosity; and
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39 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the delegates to the 146th Annual Meeting of the
40 Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ urge the CT State Department of

41 Education (CTDOE) to implement the preschool education legislation, which was passed
42 in May 2012.

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44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we the delegates to the 146th Annual Meeting the
45 Connecticut Conference urge the CTDOE to strongly encourage local school districts to
46 establish school-community collaboratives to promote outreach to parents of young
47 children to ensure that the children are exposed to school readiness skills and experiences
48 before they enter kindergarten; and

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50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we the delegates to the 146th Annual Meeting the
51 Connecticut Conference urges the CT DOE to strongly recommend prompt
52 implementation of P.A.11-181, Section (b) “The coordinated system of early care and
53 education and child development ... with emphasis on subsection: (6)(7)(9)” which
54 addresses the creation of a multi-service agency to prepare preschool children for
55 kindergarten.

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