



**Urbana School
District 116**

217-384-3616
Fax 217-384-3615

Urbana Early Childhood School
2202 E. Washington
Urbana, Illinois 61802-4598

April 24, 2014

Dear Champaign-Urbana Preschool/Childcare Center Administrator:

Urbana Early Childhood School receives its funding from the ISBE Preschool for All grant or IDEA federal funds. We currently serve only students who qualify as at-risk or have been identified as having special education needs in a half-day program. We are considering adding up to 24 tuition slots to our program. These slots would add one student to each of our ½ day classrooms. By opening more spaces in our school, we believe we can prepare more Urbana students for Kindergarten. Because several of our teachers are certified to teach English Language Learners, we also believe that we are in a unique position to reach a particular population of students who may not otherwise get ELL services in our community.

A concern has been brought forth that by adding tuition slots, we would be directly competing with other local pre-K businesses and that local businesses should not have to compete for clients with a State-funded school. Of course it is not our intent to take current or future enrollees from other local agencies, but to add a more stable funding stream to our program that currently survives primarily on a State grant and to prepare as many Urbana students for Kindergarten as possible. We are interested in getting feedback and/or concerns from other local pre-K programs before we move forward.

I invite you to contact me directly at 217-384-3616 to discuss our proposal and to address concerns or questions. I would also be glad to meet with you personally to review the proposal and will meet with you at your site or welcome you at UECS. I know how hard it is to find time to set aside for such meetings and appreciate your insights or suggestions.

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Cris Vowels'.

Cris Vowels, Principal