

## USA VALUES, LLC Questions

1. **Will 100% of the children show up for kindergarten ready. Guaranteed!**
2. **Who has a handle on 100% of the kids before they are behind.**
3. **Who will help the community understand and respond to this tweet.**

*Early literacy is freedom, working for less than 50% of USA Kids,  
Does this work for you?*

4. **Will readiness allow the school district to pay for this 100% delivery when these funds are used up.**
5. **Who is there to help the district turn first things first renewal into the funds to contract for all the at risk children.**
6. **Some kids don't fit into school at this age. How will they be brought to be ready?**
7. **The Contracts to deliver ready—are they with Mom, Child, and Mentor, even if mentor is a school teacher or administrator.**

Taken from Internet 11-22-2010

Five-year-olds Vivian Xiong and Nesbiat Sebhatsu played with magnifying glasses at a science station at Webster Elementary School. They are among 35 preschoolers getting a head start on their educations in a program serving North St. Paul, Maplewood and Oakdale.

## Preschool classes aim to close gap

District 622 opened two preschool classes this year to help close the achievement gap.

By [DAAREL BURNETTE II](#), Star Tribune

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Three 4-year-olds played with foam blocks in the corner of a Webster Elementary School classroom. Pooling their efforts, they built a four-story castle that towered a foot above their heads.

"Hey! This looks like a television set," Vivian Xiong observed.

They all giggled before the blocks tumbled to the ground.

The children are part of School District 622's new half-day preschool program, which began this school year and serves students from North St. Paul, Maplewood and Oakdale.

It's an example of an ongoing national trend that is seeing expanded preschool offerings in public schools.

The program intends to build the vocabulary, reading and writing skills of those getting ready for kindergarten and also familiarizes them with the school environment and builds social skills.

In addition to giving all students a running start, district officials hope the programs will ultimately help increase English Language Learner and minority students' test scores.

Last summer, the district received a \$250,000 grant from the Office of Equity and Diversity to establish a preschool at Webster Elementary and at the district's central office.

At Webster Elementary, 18 students attend the preschool in the morning and 17 in the afternoon.

Most of the students speak English as a second language or qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch.

The early preparation is more necessary than ever because students are now tested on the alphabet as well as spelling and reading skills in kindergarten, said Sara Palodichuk, Webster's principal.

"Kindergarten is so much more rigorous than it used to be," Palodichuk said.

Over the summer, school officials promoted the program to parents through post cards, phone calls and flyers. About the same time, local businesses donated supplies such as coloring books, construction paper and toys.

During the first few weeks of school, preschool teacher Amy Hanson and her assistant made home visits to get to know the families and learn about any special needs.