The Stand for Children direct mail piece states:

"This new money will provide Pre-K to every Shelby County child who needs it."

How many children need Pre-K? This is not clear. The TPC plan calls for 2,500 kids. I have heard the number may actually be 9,000. For purposes of this, I will be conservative and only say 2,500.

How much will it cost? The TPC plan says that 2,500 students will cost $15 million.

Therefore, for the sales tax increase "to provide Pre-K to every Shelby County child who needs it," the school board must spend $15 million out of the $30 million dedicated to schools on Pre-K.

The school board has said repeatedly that they cannot commit to any amount of funding, and certainly not one-half of the total increase, due to the other obligations that they will face next spring during their budget deliberations. They do not want to misled people.

Telling people that the tax increase will provide Pre-K to all kids who need it when there has been no such commitment by the people who make that decision (the school board), and in fact they have purposely refused to make such a promise, is False.

Personally, I completely support universal Pre-K and think that it has the potential to transform our city, and if we were truly funding universal pre-K with this tax increase, I would probably support it. But the fact is that the school board has not committed to funding Pre-K.

Jim