

Utah's State of Pre-K



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES



IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



“Early experiences determine whether a child’s developing brain architecture provides a strong or weak foundation for all future learning, behavior and health.”

-Center on the Developing Child,
Harvard University

DATA HIGHLIGHTS



47% of Utah 4 yo are in ECE Programs

- 51,000 4 year olds in Utah
- Average salary for teacher w/Bachelor's \$25,000 compared to \$46,300 for kindergarten teacher
- 650 schools offer pre-k but data is only reported by 54% of the schools
- 12,128 children age 4 participated in public pre-k or only 25% of incoming kindergarten students
- KEEP Entry Scores—ALL STUDENTS: 58% proficient in Literacy; 71% proficient in Numeracy
- KEEP Entry—LOW-INCOME: 35% in Literacy; 52% in Numeracy

Source: 2017 Early Childhood Services Study

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

54%

public schools
reporting they offer
pre-k

12,128

Cohort of 4-year-olds
attending a public
pre-k program

10,745

children using
UPSTART, a home-
based k-readiness
software program

662

Preschool
students funded
through legislative
HQSR-E funds

1,000

Preschool students funded
through legislative HQSR funds

Source: 2017 Early Childhood
Services Study

BUILDING A PRE-K SYSTEM

Parent Choice

HQ Standards

Governance

Funding

Capacity

Professional Standards

Early Learning Standards

Outcomes



Utah Pre-K: 2014-2018



- Definition of High Quality School Readiness
- Utah first in nation to establish Pay for Success Transaction
- Initial investment in high quality preschool
- Establishment of the School Readiness Board
- Scholarships for children experiencing **I**ntergenerational **P**overty
- 2016 invested to expand seats for low-income 4 yo
- Funding for 300 early childhood educators to obtain CDA
- UPSTART home-based technology
- OCC Preschool Quality Improvement Grants
- Head Start Programs Serving Approximately 6,000 children

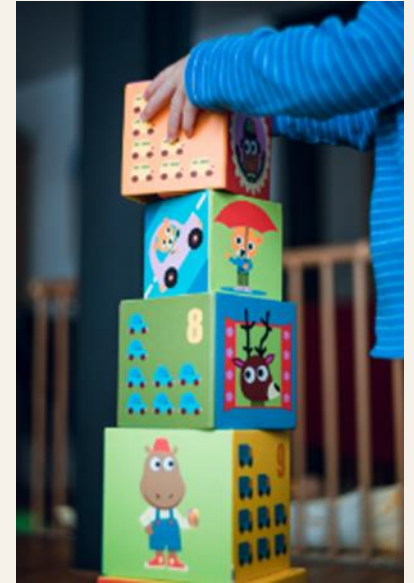
Utah Pre-K: 2014-2018



- Kindergarten Entry & Exit Profile to track kindergarten readiness and kindergarten outcomes
- Preschool Entry and Exist Profile to track preschool readiness, kindergarten readiness and summer slide

Utah Pre-K: 2019

- Assessments Established to Track Outcomes (except Lifelong Learning Practices)
- Governor's Early Childhood Commission
- Governor's Education Excellence Commission
- Expansion of the School Readiness Board
- Child Care Quality System—October 1, 2019
- Aligned Understanding of Quality & Measuring It
- Promoting Parent Choice
- Revised Early Learning Standards Across System
- Professional Development



AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

1. Alignment of Professional Development Standards and Competencies.
2. Improving coordination between public education and private early care and learning programs to support kindergarten transitions.
3. Quality teaching, as discussed by USBE
4. Early childhood coordination and alignment to address the whole child's development
 1. Developmental screenings
 2. Supporting parents as child's first teacher through early literacy
 3. Health needs address—behavioral and physical





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