

NYS - ADMINISTERED PREKINDERGARTEN

FAST FACTS

What is State-Administered Prekindergarten in New York State?

State-Administered Prekindergarten*, also known as Universal PreK (UPK), is a State-funded program offered to families free of charge. The only eligibility requirement for State-Administered Prekindergarten in New York State is a child's age and residency.

Did You Know?



Children who attend prekindergarten are more likely to graduate high school and attend college.¹



Children who attend prekindergarten earn significantly more as adults, and are less likely to be unemployed.¹



Studies have shown that for every \$1 invested in prekindergarten, the community sees a \$7 return on investment through decreased public spending on those students later in life.²



State/Federal Investment

\$1.2 billion

\$1.2 billion in state and federal funding is accessible to serve over 190,000 four-year-old prekindergarten students in New York State annually.^{3,4}



Districts

650

Over 650 districts in New York State currently have access to state and/or federal prekindergarten funding.⁴



Four-Year-Old Students Served

118,000

In the 2024-2025 school year, State-Administered Prekindergarten programs served over 118,000 four-year-old students, compared to 115,000 students eleven years ago.⁵



Three-Year-Old Students Served

5,800

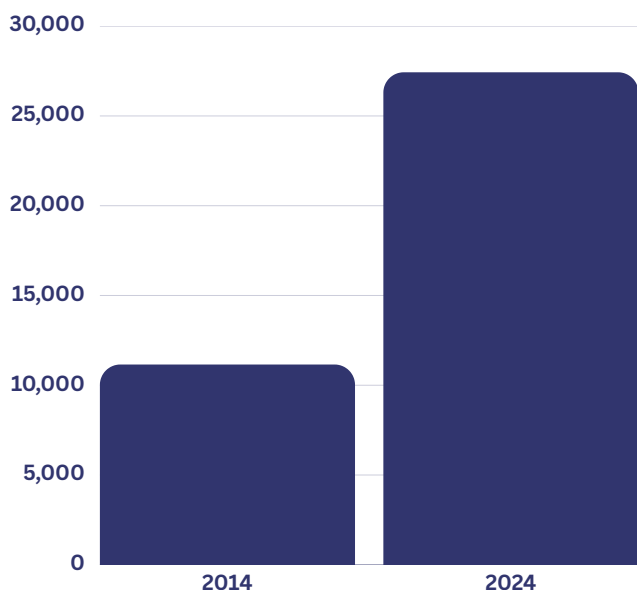
\$50 million in additional state funds are allocated each year to provide prekindergarten programming to over 5,800 three-year-old students.^{4,5}

* Any reference to State-Administered prekindergarten equates to UPK

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Growth in Prekindergarten Access for Students with Special Needs^{7,8}



■ Students with IEPs enrolled in State-Administered Prekindergarten in 2014 and 2024



Collaborating Partners

2,000

New York State school districts partner with over 2,000 community prekindergarten providers across the state.⁶



Local Education Agencies (LEA) Supported by NYSED

195

The NYS Office of Early Learning (OEL) is required to monitor 195 LEAs (184 districts and 11 agencies) throughout the State who receive prekindergarten funding. OEL provides technical assistance to all State-Administered Prekindergarten programs.



Emergent Multilingual Learners

29,961

In the 2024-2025 school year, State-Administered Prekindergarten programs served over 29,000 Emergent Multilingual Learners (EMLs).⁷



For more information on State-Administered Prekindergarten in New York State, please visit the Office of Early Learning's [website](#).

REFERENCES:

- ¹ Guthrie Gray-Lobe & Parag A Pathak & Christopher R Walters, 2022. "The Long-Term Effects of Universal Preschool in Boston," The Quarterly Journal of Economics, vol 138(1), pages 363-411.
- ² Lawrence J. Schweinhart, Jeanne Montie, Zongping Xiang, W. Steven Barnett, Clive R. Belfield, & Milagros Nores, 2005. "The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40," High/Scope Press, pages 194-215).
- ³ Office of Budget and Policy Analysis. (2025, May). Enacted Budget Report - State Fiscal Year 2025. Office of the New York State Comptroller. Retrieved September 22, 2025, from <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/budget>.
- ⁴ New York State Education Department. Allocation Lists for 2024-2025. Allocations and Financial Forms. Retrieved September 22, 2025, from <http://www.nysed.gov/early-learning/state-administered-prekindergarten-programs-allocations-and-financial-forms>
- ⁵ 2024-2025 NYS SIRS, September 2025
- ⁶ 2024-2025 State-Administered Prekindergarten Application, MVPS, September 2025
- ⁷ 2024-2025 NYS Prekindergarten Final Report, MVPS, September 2025
- ⁸ 2014-2015 NYS Prekindergarten Final Report, MVPS, August 2015