



CELEBRATING **TEN YEARS**

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM, 2016 IS ABOUT YOU.

It's about the people in our community who've made Denver a place where every member has an equal opportunity to succeed in life from the very beginning. It's about the legacy our community built through the Denver Preschool Program.

People like the early childhood advocates and funders who recognized a need for additional support; the policymakers and business leaders who convinced the public that investing in preschool is beneficial for our entire community; the educators who give their best selves in the classroom each day and the parents who refused to be complacent about the quality of Denver's children's early learning.

Ten years ago this diverse group of people set out on a mission that remains in place today: make high quality preschool possible for all children in Denver. It's because of their collective

effort that the Denver Preschool Program welcomed the first child in 2007 and will welcome the 50,000th in 2017.

Although we are proud to have nurtured enough children to fill every seat in Coors Field, our work is not done. As a government-funded organization it's our responsibility to use taxpayers' dollars in the most effective and efficient ways possible. Therefore, we are always striving to increase the return on Denver's preschool investment.

For instance, in 2016 we restructured the tuition credit scale to distribute even more funds to the families that need it most beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, as well as rewarded engaged educators through our new teacher achievement framework. And, we developed a 2017 through 2021 strategic plan that sets long-term goals for our organization and details some of the steps we'll take to achieve them within the next five years.

One of those goals is forming community partnerships to better understand and

break down barriers to high quality early childhood education. As we often say around here, great things happen when we work together and we're excited to explore innovative ways to reach even more underserved children.

In this report you will hear from a few of the families whose children you've helped thrive. Each of their circumstances is unique, but one thing they all have in common is hope for the future. You'll also hear from some of the people who played a significant role in making the Denver Preschool Program what it is today. I am honored to have worked with them and grateful that they chose to continue giving their time and talent to our cause.

On behalf of the nearly 50,000 children we've already had the privilege to serve, thank you. None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the compassion and commitment of our community.



Jennifer Landrum, President and CEO



JENNIFER LANDRUM,
PRESIDENT AND CEO

FROM OPPOSITION TO OPPORTUNITY

HOW DENVER BECAME A BEACON FOR HIGH QUALITY PRESCHOOL

Almost 20 years ago, a small but motivated group of community leaders decided to take action to prevent Denver families from losing access to early childhood programs threatened by city budget cuts. Inspired by publically funded preschool programs in California and Kansas, these advocates pushed for a ballot initiative that would use taxpayer dollars to support local organizations dedicated to early childhood education.

Unfortunately, Denver voters sharply rejected a measure in 2000 and a similar one the following year. **“At the time the Denver voter did not fully understand the impact this kind of program could**

have,” said Councilwoman Carol Boigon who worked with former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb to develop both measures.

And yet, they didn't give up.

“Sometimes when you want to do something big and different it takes time,” Boigon continued.

Following the end of Webb's term, a group of local leaders representing Denver's early childhood, business and philanthropic communities worked diligently on a new data-based strategy that would garner voters' support for a new initiative. Supported by former Mayor/ current Governor John Hickenlooper and City Council, the Preschool Matters initiative was conceived and voted on in 2006—and this time it was approved.

Although the margin of victory was small (1,815 votes to be exact), its outcome was significant: The vote created a .12 percent sales tax that would generate more than \$12 million a year to fund the Denver Preschool Program through 2016. During that time, the funds would be used to improve the quality of local early childhood education programs and lower the cost of tuition for all Denver families.

To prevent the program from expiring in 2016, Hickenlooper's successor Mayor Michael B. Hancock appealed to the public in 2014 for continued support. Caring deeply about the value of preschool, Hancock not only asked Denver voters to approve the sales tax for another decade, but also to raise it to .15 percent. Once again, the answer was yes and the city took another step forward in becoming

a national leader in early childhood education.

“I believe in the Denver Preschool Program because it helps prepare all of Denver's children, no matter where they live or what color their skin, to have successful futures. If our youngest are prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn, they're more likely to read at grade level by third grade, and that means they're more likely to graduate, go on to college and beyond,” Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock.

As of 2016, the Denver Preschool Program has provided more than \$80 million in tuition support to help more than 41,000 Denver children attend the preschool of their family's choice, establishing each child's foundation for lifelong learning and success.

“Thank you to all the people who have worked so hard to make the Denver Preschool Program a success,” Linda Campbell, artist and community activist.



“Of all the things I've done in public life, the Denver Preschool Program is something that I had the greatest hopes for and that I think is going to be a growing benefit. You're not just helping kids get a better job someday, you're helping expand the number of kids who have a good life.”

– Governor Hickenlooper



“I’m very thankful for the Denver Preschool Program. I couldn’t have done it without them. Because of DPP helping me send Jaylah to a good school, she’s an A-plus kid.”

– Jessica, mother of Jaylah

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

PRESCHOOL HELPS PARENT SPOT AND TREAT SPEECH DELAY

When friends and family expressed concern that Jessica’s 4-year-old daughter Jaylah used nonverbal cues to communicate, she assured them Jaylah was developing at her own pace and would speak when she was ready.

“She wouldn’t say more than ‘uh.’ There were no words. I could understand her,” said Jessica, **“but of course, I’m her mother.”**

It wasn’t until she enrolled Jaylah in the Hope Center Children’s Program located in north Denver in 2008 that

Jessica discovered her daughter’s silence was actually a symptom of a speech disorder. **“I found out Jaylah was uncomfortable using her tongue and needed help with her oral motor skills,”** said Jessica.

Hope Center staff members were able to arrange an in-class tutor for Jaylah as well as home visits from a qualified speech therapist. Thanks to their attentive care, Jaylah overcame her discomfort and was speaking in full sentences like her peers by the end of her preschool year.

“It was beautiful,” said Jessica.

Now the once shy toddler is an outspoken, headstrong and “very, very, confident,” 14-year-old according to her mother.

“She’s a great student,” Jessica emphasized. In addition to earning mostly As and Bs in her eighth grade classes at High Point Academy, Jaylah plays the flute, clarinet and participates in volleyball, basketball, track and cheerleading.

“I’m very thankful for the DPP program, I couldn’t have done it without them. Because of DPP helping me send Jaylah to a good school, she’s an A-plus kid.”

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THE DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM TURNS 10

DPP would like to thank the City and County of Denver for its commitment to providing every child in our city a strong start. Because of the support from the ballot to the blackboard, we are on target to serve our 50,000th student in the fall of 2017.



**TOTAL NUMBER
OF CHILDREN** **41,280**
SERVED FROM 2006-2016:

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A BRIGHT FUTURE	2007 -08	2008 -09	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16
DPS	465	3,718	3,780	3,712	3,494	3,203	3,050	2,598	3,386
COMMUNITY	134	1,240	2,097	1,648	1,695	1,817	1,765	1,772	1,706
TOTAL	599	4,958	5,877	5,360	5,189	5,020	4,815	4,370	5,092



**TOTAL NUMBER
OF TUITION
CREDITS DISTRIBUTED:**

\$80,863,360

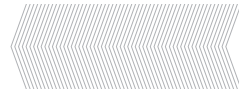


AFFORDABLE PRESCHOOL FOR ALL	2007 -08	2008 -09	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16
TUITION CREDITS	\$748,142	\$16,531,631	\$8,802,734	\$6,612,562	\$7,028,023	\$8,399,134	\$9,018,283	\$10,898,637	\$12,824,214



**TOTAL AMOUNT
INVESTED IN**
PRESCHOOL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:

\$11,766,418



SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	2007 -08	2008 -09	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16
QI INVESTMENT	\$945,595	\$2,693,385	\$1,423,303	\$657,433	\$1,004,680	\$1,263,995	\$1,210,694	\$969,842	\$1,597,489

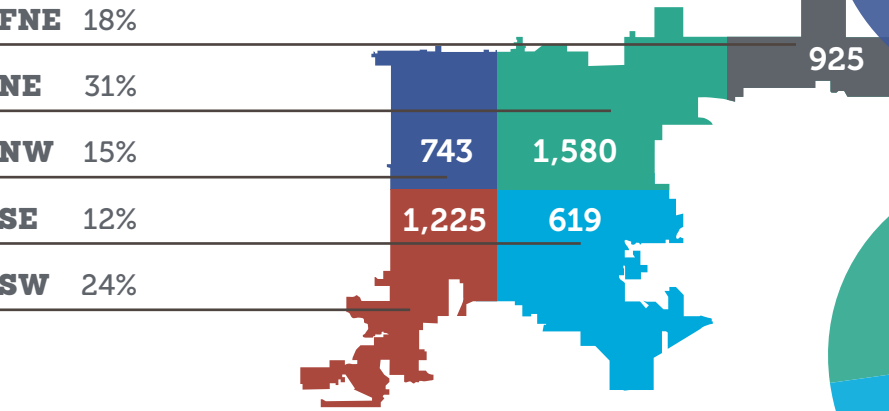
COMPREHENSIVE PRESCHOOL PAYS OFF

Every \$1 invested in early childhood education creates \$7 in future savings as children who attend high quality preschool are more likely to have better outcomes in health, social behaviors and employment.

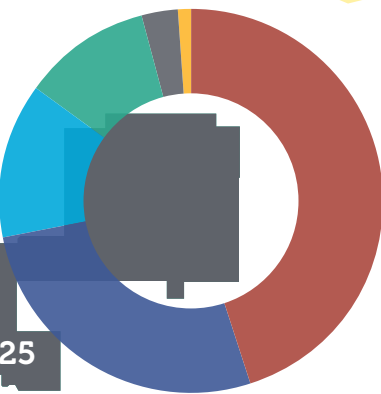
**DENVER'S
FUTURE TOTAL
RETURN ON
INVESTMENT THUS FAR:** **\$648
MILLION**

2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

BENEFICIARIES BY REGION



TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED DURING 2015-16: **5,092**



CHILDREN SERVED BY ETHNICITY

- 45% **HISPANIC**
- 27% **WHITE (NOT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN)**
- 13% **BLACK (NOT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN)**
- 11% **OTHER**
- 3% **ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER**
- 1% **AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE**

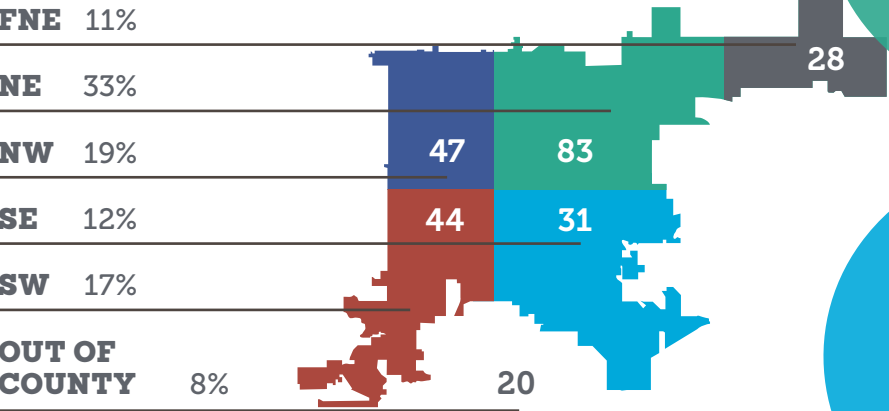


CHILDREN SERVED BY INCOME

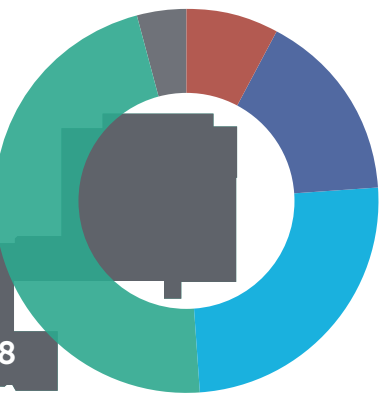
- 39% **<100% FPL**
- 22% **100%-185% FPL**
- 12% **185%-300% FPL**
- 17% **>300% FPL**
- 10% **NO INCOME PROVIDED**

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS BY REGION

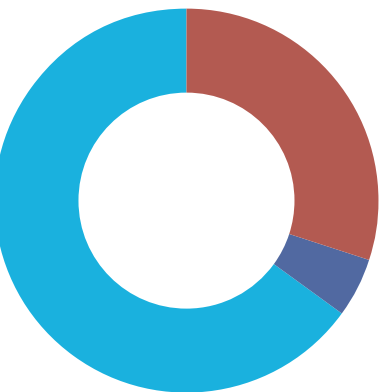


TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS (2015-16): **253**



PROGRAM BY SCHOOL QUALITY

- 8% **LEVEL 1**
- 16% **LEVEL 2**
- 25% **LEVEL 3**
- 47% **LEVEL 4**
- 4% **LEVEL 5**



PROGRAM BY TYPE

- 60% **CENTERS IN THE COMMUNITY**
- 5% **HOME CARE IN THE COMMUNITY**
- 35% **DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS CENTERS**

TUITION SUPPORT

HELPING ALL DENVER FAMILIES AFFORD HIGH QUALITY PRESCHOOL

While most parents agree that preschool is important, increasingly few can afford it. According to the Economic Policy Institute, in 2016 the average cost of full time child care for a 4-year-old in Colorado was \$824 a month, which represents 18.8 percent of a median family's income and 76.1 percent of a minimum wage family's income.

Through the Denver Preschool Program, tuition credits are available to all families that live within the City and County of Denver and have a 4-year-old enrolled in a participating preschool

program in the year before kindergarten.

Tuition credits are distributed based on a sliding scale, which takes into account family income, the quality rating of the chosen preschool program and the length of day the child attends.

"We're excited to make preschool more affordable for even more Denver families," Susan Steele, executive director of the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation and DPP Board Treasurer said. **"Not only have we increased support by 10 percent from 2016 to 2017, we've also made several updates to our sliding scale to allocate more funds to those who need it most."**

Since 2007, the Denver Preschool Program has invested approximately \$80 million in tuition support to help more than 41,000 children attend the preschool of their family's choice. More than 250 quality-rated preschool programs are affiliated with the organization, including community-based centers, family child care homes and Denver Public Schools classrooms.

The typical student receiving tuition support comes from a family at or below 100 percent of the poverty level, attending a level 4 quality preschool for a full school day. Families fitting this profile received \$501 a month in tuition support for the 2015-2016 school year.



2015-2016
SCHOOL YEAR

\$12.8 MILLION
 **TUITION SUPPORT**

MADE IT
POSSIBLE FOR

5,092 children
TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL

WITH A TYPICAL
CHILD RECEIVING
(TIER 1, LEVEL 4, FULL
DAY STUDENT)

\$501
EACH MONTH



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

ENCOURAGING AND REWARDING EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The relationship a child has with their teacher is critical to their learning and wellbeing. As a result, not only does the Denver Preschool Program invest in promoting high quality programs, but also high quality teachers.

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Denver Preschool Program launched a new Quality Improvement (QI) framework to support and reward preschool programs, directors and teachers for taking advantage of professional development opportunities.

For example, in August 2016, the Denver Preschool Program invested more than \$200,000 in Teacher Compensation and Education Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood® Scholarships. Twenty-one recipients are currently seeking a professional credential, associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

The scholarships are one of many incentives available to providers who exhibit the Denver Preschool Program's core quality values of intentional teaching, highly effective teachers and positive teacher-child interactions.

"I never thought I'd make it this far," Guadalupe Rubio, director of Crayon Academic Learning Center and T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship recipient said. **"I'm really happy to say that I've been working in this field for almost nine years. As a single mom of two, it's been a challenge, but my struggle makes me feel proud of the person I've become."**

Since 2007, DPP has invested over \$11.1 million in quality ratings and quality improvements in Denver preschools.

READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

STUDY ASSESSES STUDENT PROGRESS DURING PRESCHOOL

The Denver Preschool Program regularly reviews its outcomes to ensure program quality, uncover areas in need of improvement and publically demonstrate the value of Denver's investment in early childhood education.

For example, every year in the fall and spring, it tests a representative sample of 230 children who participate in the program to see how they progress in five areas essential for kindergarten success: vocabulary, literacy, math, social emotional development and executive function (working memory). The full report is available online at dpp.org.

The 2015-2016 Student Outcome and Kindergarten Readiness Report, developed by Clayton Early Learning, confirmed that during their preschool year, DPP students:

- Increased their average vocabulary score by 2.80 points in English and .60 points in Spanish.
- Increased their average literacy score by 3.06 points in English and 6.30 points in Spanish.
- Maintained their average math score in English and improved it by 3.10 points in languages other than English.
- Increased their average scores in total protective behaviors (self-initiative, self-regulation and attachment) between 2.11 and 4.16 points.
- Maintained their executive function, behavior and emotional control scores.



SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

DPP UNVEILS A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

"Any organization with a mission to succeed in improving the educational interests of children must have a plan to get there," says Jennifer Landrum, President and CEO

The Denver Preschool Program recently announced a new 2017 to 2021 strategic plan to ensure it meets the evolving needs of children and the local early childhood education community over the next five years.

Denver-based consulting firm Mission Spark led the year-long strategic planning process, in which more than 40 stakeholders helped refine the

organization's mission, vision, and values.

The team added "Intentional Inclusivity" and "Leadership in Action" to DPP's core values of Access For All, Informed Choice and High Quality to better reflect how it will address some of the current issues it faces that are a result of the city's changing demographics.

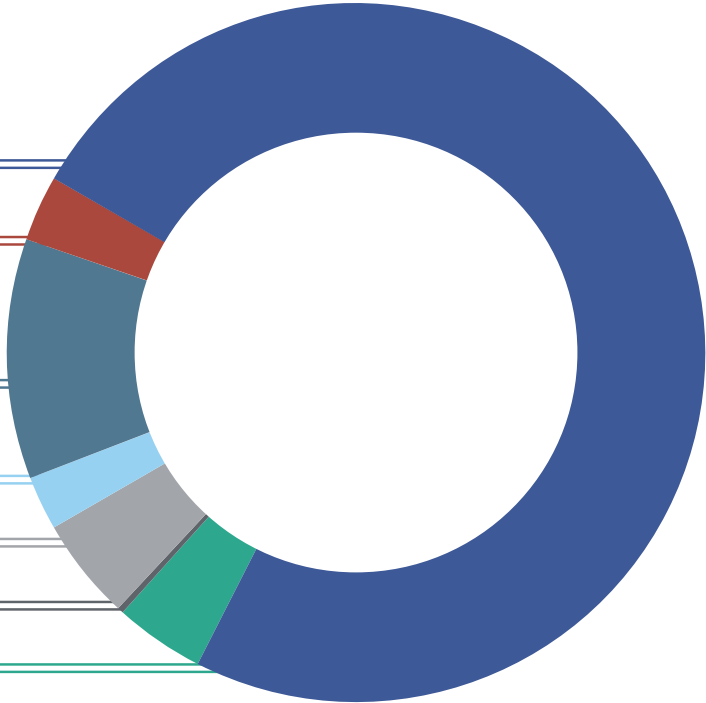
"Denver is changing and the Denver Preschool Program needs to change with it. Given the incredible development that's happening in the city, we need to be proactive and innovative in our approach to serving families." – Mike Yankovich, president and CEO of the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus and DPP board chair.

2016 CALENDAR YEAR

AUDITED FINANCIALS

WHERE WE INVESTED YOUR TAX DOLLARS

74.4%	Tuition	\$12,859,810
3.2%	Enrollment & Customer Service	\$554,883
10.9%	Quality	\$1,887,838
2.5%	Evaluation	\$429,695
4.8%	Outreach	\$825,438
0.2%	Other Services	\$37,407
4.0%	Administration	\$684,125



“I think the Denver Preschool Program is doing some of the most critical work in our community. It guarantees the future success of our city by investing in our youngest constituents.”

– Albus Brooks, Denver City Council District 9

GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Yankovich (Chair),**
*Children's Museum of
Denver at Marsico Campus*

Amber Münck
(Vice Chair),
Greenberg Traurig LLP

**Susan Steele (Secretary/
Treasurer),** The Temple
Hoyne Buell Foundation

Dr. Rosemarie Allen*,
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| Institute for Racial
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*Denver Center for the
Performing Arts*

Anna Jo Haynes,**
Mile High Montessori

Chris Watney*, People
and Possibilities LLC

*Appointed by Mayor Michael
Hancock in 2016

**Reappointed by Mayor
Michael Hancock in 2016

PROGRAM STAFF

Jennifer Landrum,
President & CEO

Ellen Braun,
Deputy Director

Chris Miller, Director
of Quality Initiatives

Tricia Nelson,
Communications Manager

Philip Perrin, Director of
Enrollment and Evaluation

David Collins, 2016
Director of Operations



DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

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DPP.org

**FUNDING
QUALITY
PRESCHOOL
FOR DENVER**

