

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

📄 **DPP.ORG**  
☎ **303.595.4DPP (4377)**

High-quality early childhood education plays a critical role in early development and kindergarten readiness, and provides a jumpstart on a child's education and long-term success. As valuable as quality preschool is, it also can represent a significant cost for most Denver families.

Average cost of preschool in Denver

**+\$12,000** PER YEAR\* **= 20%**  
MORE THAN THE AVERAGE IN-STATE COLLEGE TUITION **OF INCOME**  
(FOR SOME UP TO 40%)

\*<https://www.epi.org/publication/ece-in-the-states/#/Colorado>

## Tuition Credits:

DPP champions early childhood education as a critical step on the path to long-term success by offering tuition credits to every Denver family, regardless of income.

**SINCE 2006** **\$140 MILLION**  
in tuition credits to more than  
**60,000 STUDENTS**

The highest number of families served being the families with the lowest incomes.

## Quality Improvement:

In collaboration with our participating providers and local partners, we have significantly increased the quality of early childhood education programs and helped ensure there are quality options in every corner of our city.

We provide free:

- Professional development
- College scholarships
- Coaching for educators
- Classroom materials

May 2006 • • • • • August 2020

**46** Quality Rated Providers (before DPP was created) **258** Quality Rated Providers (80% level 3 or higher)

## What is Denver Preschool Program?

**a.** Denver Preschool Program (DPP) makes quality preschool available and affordable for every Denver family.

**b.** DPP began in 2006 thanks to a voter-approved 0.15% city sales tax, making our city one of only a few in the country that uses sales tax revenue to make high-quality early childhood education opportunities accessible to all families.

**c.** DPP is not a preschool nor a part of Denver Public Schools (DPS).

## Denver Preschool Program's Core Initiatives

Approximately 80% of DPP's budget goes to

- > Tuition Support for families and
- > Quality Improvement resources for providers.

### DPP also engages in

- > Extensive community outreach to families
- > Evaluation of both its program operations and child outcomes
- > Advocacy at the city, state and national levels to re-imagine the early childhood education system as a whole

**2021** **\$788**

Typical monthly tuition savings

**100%**

Of preschool tuition costs covered for qualifying families

**250+**

Number of licensed preschool providers we partner with

**4,818**

Children receiving tuition credits

**63%**

Are children of color