

STATE



REPORT

2011



Letter from the Denver Preschool Program



Dear Partners,

This was another big year for the Denver Preschool Program. Not only did we enroll our 20,000th child in the program, we also co-hosted Preschool One Book One Denver with a llama, received another positive evaluation report and helped launch the first annual Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference for the early childhood community (which will return in 2013).

On top of these achievements, the Denver Preschool Program continued to help improve the quality of preschool in Denver and increase preschool access for Denver's children. With about 70 percent of eligible 4-year-olds participating, the Denver Preschool Program has quickly become one of the highest enrolled preschool programs of its kind in the country. This is no small feat, and one for which our entire community should be very proud.

Perhaps most importantly, the results of our annual evaluation point to a program that continues to get results for Denver's kids. The vast majority of children that participate in the Denver Preschool Program end up leaving us ready for school.

We are energized by the support of all our partners and are thankful for your dedication to education. We look forward to working with you over the coming year to continue providing access to quality early childhood education for all of Denver's kids.

Thank you for your support of the Denver Preschool Program.

Yours in service,



Eileen Piper
DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



John Plotkin
DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
BOARD CHAIR

The Denver Preschool Program is a non-profit organization established and operated through the support of the entire Denver community. The Denver Preschool Program helps Denver families pay for preschool across the city and offers funding to local preschool programs to improve their quality. The Denver Preschool Program is open and voluntary for all Denver children the year before they are eligible for kindergarten.

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Denver's investment is paying off



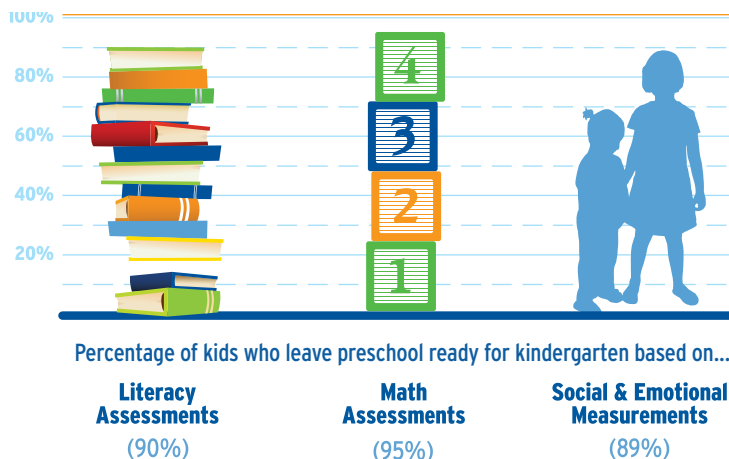
Each year, the Denver Preschool Program measures its success through an independent evaluation. This year's report shows that the Denver Preschool Program's commitment to quality education is impacting the Denver community and helping students achieve more in the short-term and long-term.

The report shows that Denver Preschool Program students made significant progress during their preschool year – above and beyond what would be expected based on normal child development. Our research suggests that students who leave the Denver Preschool Program ready for kindergarten are more likely to be strong and successful readers in their early elementary years. By various measures, more than three-quarters of Denver Preschool Program kids are leaving the program ready for kindergarten.

"My daughter was way ahead when she left preschool. I cannot imagine where we would be without the Denver Preschool Program."

Kellie, Denver Preschool Program parent

The vast majority of Denver Preschool Program children leave the program ready for school



Denver Preschool Program sites with a 3 or 4-star* Qualistar Colorado rating

Who is Qualistar Colorado?

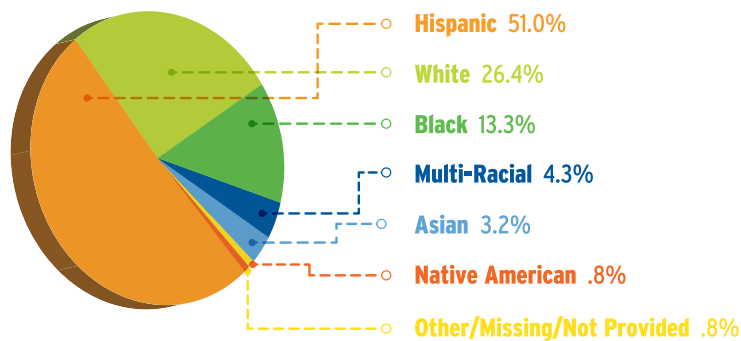
Qualistar Colorado rates early childhood programs by awarding points to providers based on such factors as learning environment, family partnerships, staff professional development and work experience, and adult to child ratios.

*The highest possible rating!

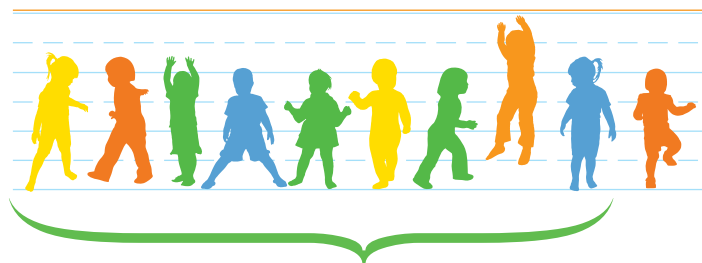
THERE ARE 158 PRESCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
WITH 259 UNIQUE LOCATIONS AROUND DENVER.

Who we're helping

Students by Child's Ethnicity (2010-11)



In 2011, the Denver Preschool Program provided tuition credits to 5,915 children



*As measured by the Qualistar 4-star scale.

DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM IN ACTION

When Bayarmaa moved to America to learn English almost 10 years ago, she didn't realize her greatest teacher would be her 5-year-old son, Andy.

Bayarmaa, a housekeeping supervisor at a Denver hotel, is a single mother who struggles to make ends meet. Even though she is busy working to support her family, she is dedicated to making sure her son Andy learns English and gets a good education.

"The most important thing for my son is education," said Bayarmaa. "I came to the U.S. to learn English and I sent him to preschool because I wanted him to learn English as well. I found the Denver Preschool Program really helped."

Bayarmaa worried that she wouldn't be able to afford preschool for Andy. Fortunately, she applied for the Denver Preschool Program and was able to send her son to The Dalton Gang, a 3-star family child care home.

"I would not have had this chance to send my son to preschool if there was no tuition credit," said Bayarmaa.

Today, Andy is doing great. He is in kindergarten and likes reading and drawing. His mother says he continues to build his English vocabulary every day.

As for Bayarmaa, she says "I feel happy."



How we're doing it

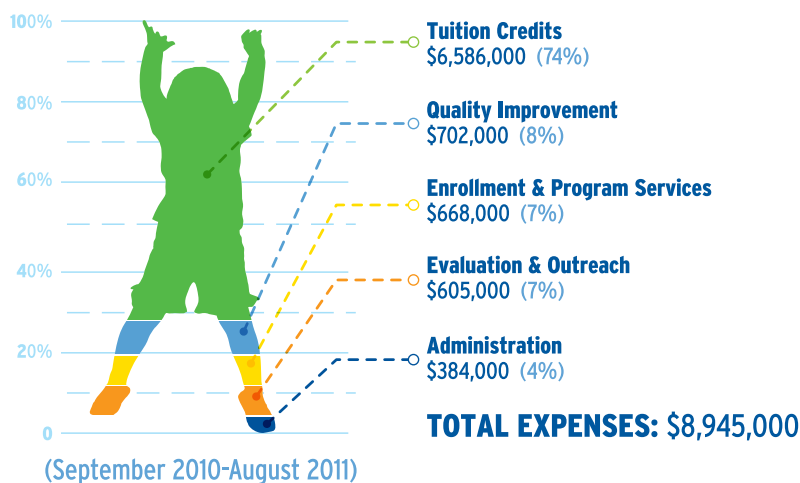
The Denver Preschool Program is the result of a ballot measure approved by Denver voters in 2006 that sets aside a percentage of Denver sales tax revenue to fund the program. Since January 2007, the city has collected approximately \$10 million per year for the program, the vast majority of which goes directly to the students' education through tuition credits and quality improvement funding for preschools. Every \$1 spent on quality early childhood education can save the entire community as much as \$14 in the long-term.

The typical Denver Preschool Program family receives between \$254-\$283 per month to help pay for the cost of a Denver preschool. Two-thirds of Denver Preschool Program families report annual family incomes of less than \$30,000.

"We wouldn't have been able to send our son to preschool without the Denver Preschool Program tuition credit."

Abby, a former Denver Preschool Program parent

Denver Preschool Program's Financials



Denver Preschool Program's Impact Since 2007



About us

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"The Denver Preschool Program is really doing its part to improve the culture of quality among Denver's preschools. That's something we should all be grateful for."

Theresa Peña, Executive Director, Denver Education Compact

DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM STAFF

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