



5-YEAR COMMUNITY REPORT

- More than 25,000 children served
- Nearly \$50 million in tuition support
- Over 250 preschools rated for quality

DPP.ORG



PRESCHOOL INVESTMENT PAYING DIVIDENDS

Greetings DPP Friends,

It's easy to forget that the Denver Preschool Program squeaked by with less than a 2,000-vote margin of victory in 2006. Undaunted by two earlier failed attempts, preschool advocates led by Denver's premier foundations persevered, persuading then-Mayor John Hickenlooper and City Council to put the proposal before Denver voters.

Five years after full operation, the Denver Preschool Program has more than exceeded expectations. Nearly 6,000 – or 70 percent – of Denver's 4-year-olds are enrolled annually, making it one of the highest enrolled programs of its kind anywhere in the country.

Year after year, independent evaluations confirm that DPP graduates are ready for kindergarten – academically, emotionally and socially.

More graduates of the Denver Preschool Program in Denver Public Schools are reading at or above grade level in kindergarten than district kindergarteners overall, according to the most recent report. DPP students scored 94% and 93% on literacy and math assessments, respectively, compared to just 69% expected for the general population. English language learners and other children at risk of falling behind in school due to poverty are showing evidence of making progress toward closing the achievement gap by the end of preschool.

Advocates and architects of the Denver Preschool Program were pioneers with few city models to guide them. They were visionaries, building the Denver Preschool Program on three core pillars of success: access, choice and quality.

Expanding access required offsetting the cost of preschool, which often exceeds the cost of in-state college tuition. Making tuition support available to all Denver families, regardless of income, helped ensure this goal.

Community-based centers and family child care homes then formed the backbone of Denver's preschool community. The Denver Preschool Program built on these assets to offer families an array of choices. Finding what Colorado's former first lady Bea Romer has called the "right fit" to match children's widely varying development is especially critical in early childhood education.

At the same time, close collaboration strengthened Denver Public Schools as evidenced by the recent passage of a bond and mill to expand early childhood services in that system.

Research underscores the role of quality programs in preparing preschoolers for kindergarten and beyond. So DPP invests in independent quality ratings as well as coaching and quality improvement grants for each of its participating preschools.

As the Denver Preschool Program celebrates its fifth anniversary this year, its visionary champions can revel in having helped more than 25,000 Denver families access the high-quality preschool of their choice. More than \$50 million in tuition support and quality improvement funding has been an investment that the Denver community can take to the bank.



Theresa Peña
Denver Preschool Program
Current Board Chair

Theresa Peña



John Plotkin
Denver Preschool Program
Board Chair, 2010-2013

John Plotkin



Gloria Higgins
Denver Preschool Program
Board Chair, 2007-2010

Gloria Higgins

PRESCHOOL: A SMART START

“Early childhood education sets the stage for future success in school and life, which is why the Denver Preschool Program plays a vital role in not only giving our children a smart start, but delivering a world-class city where everyone matters.”

-Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock

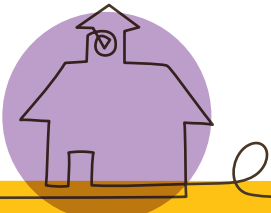


THE EARLY DIFFERENCE

Educating my children is very important to me. Like most parents, I want my children to have the best and I know how much preschool helps my children get ready for school. I couldn't have my children in preschool if it wasn't for the Denver Preschool Program.

When I went to my son's parent night, they told me he was one of only four kindergarteners who could write their full first and last names with capital letters. It just made me so proud of him, and I know that's the difference preschool made for him.

- Emily Romero
Mother of Victoria, the 25,000th child enrolled in the Denver Preschool Program



ACCESS. CHOICE. QUALITY.

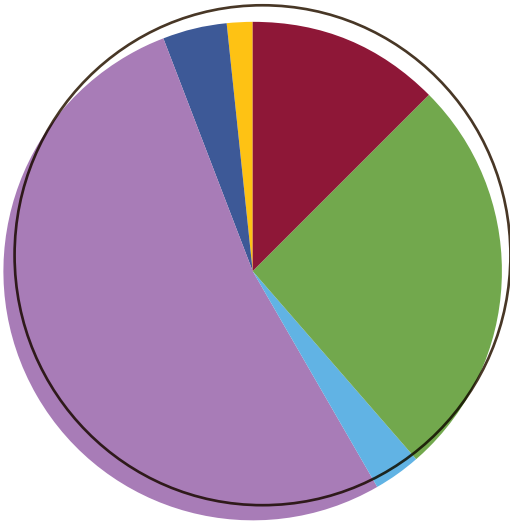
Nearly 70 percent of Denver’s 4-year-olds attend quality preschools thanks to the Denver Preschool Program

Denver families can choose from more than 250 preschools – all rated for quality – to meet their child’s needs. DPP partners include: 24 Montessori preschools, 16 nationally accredited sites, 80 public school locations, 150 community-based centers, 19 family child care homes, and more.

WE SERVE ALL DENVER FAMILIES

2011-2012
SCHOOL YEAR

- Hispanic
- Multiracial
- Other
- African American
- Anglo
- Asian



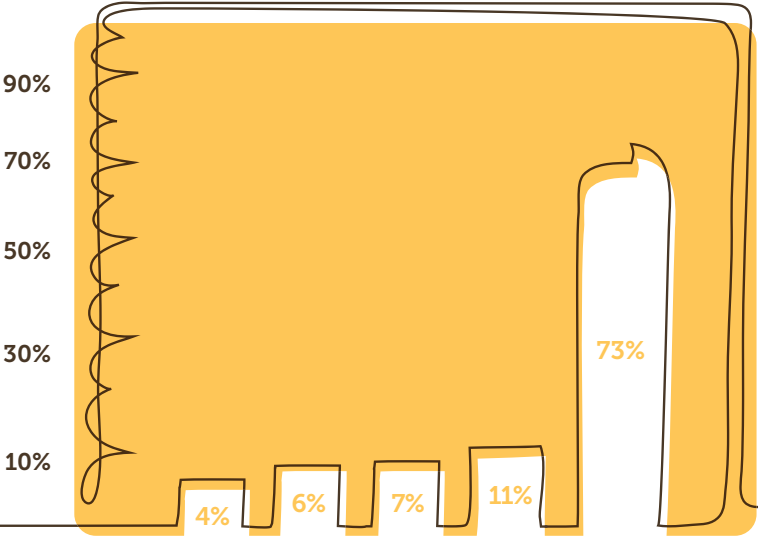
Tuition support from the Denver Preschool Program is available to all Denver families - regardless of income - with a child in their last year of preschool. The amount of support a family receives depends on family size and income as well as the quality of the preschool they choose. Since 2007, more than two-thirds of the families DPP has served have been those with the greatest need.



The logic is quite clear from an economic standpoint. We can invest early to close disparities and prevent achievement gaps, or we can pay to remediate disparities when they are harder and more expensive to close. Either way we are going to pay.

-James J. Heckman,
Nobel Laureate in Economics

OVERALL FUNDING 2007-2012



EXPENSES

- 73% Tuition Credits - \$48,135,000
- 11% Quality Improvement - \$7,405,000
- 7% Evaluation & Outreach - \$4,525,000
- 6% Enrollment & Program Services - \$3,657,000
- 4% Administration - \$2,454,000
- Total Expenses - \$66,176,000

REVENUES

- 99% Sales Tax Revenue - \$65,312,000
- 1% Investment Income, Contributions - \$823,000
- Total Revenues - \$66,135,000

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, Piton Foundation Founder Sam Gary and Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock blow out candles on cake celebrating Denver Preschool Program’s fifth anniversary.



Feb 08
100th preschool enrolls

Apr 08
Online “Find a Preschool” tool helps first Denver family find the right preschool for their child

Nov 08
200th preschool enrolls

Jan 09
In first full year of operation, enrollment leaps from just 7% to over 60% of Denver’s 4-year-olds

Feb 09
“A Chair For My Mother” recognized as DPP’s first Preschool One Book, One Denver selection

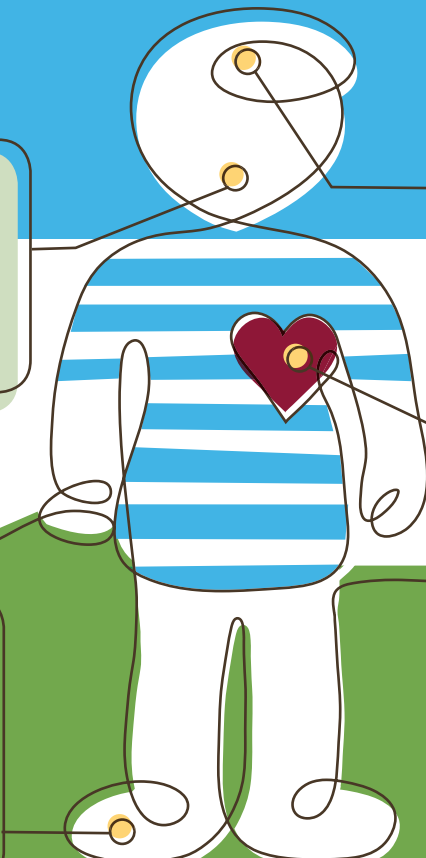
Aug 09
250th preschool enrolls

Nov 09
Release of first independent evaluation reveals DPP investment is starting to pay off

Jan 10
As DPP helps its 10,000th child attend preschool, enrollment grows to exceed 70% of Denver’s 4-year-olds

DPP STUDENTS ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR SUCCESS



More graduates of DPP in Denver Public Schools are reading at or above grade level in kindergarten than district kindergarteners overall.

DPP students scored 94% and 93% on literacy and math assessments, respectively, compared to just 69% expected for the general population.

DPP graduates are ready for school, both academically and socio-emotionally.

Children at risk of falling behind in school due to poverty are on their way toward catching up to their more affluent peers by the end of preschool.

ABOUT US

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

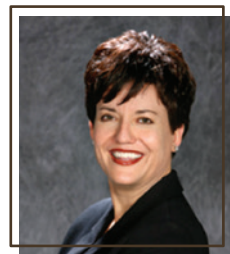
The Denver Preschool Program, Inc., an independent, non-profit organization, runs the Denver Preschool Program for the City and County of Denver.

A seven-member Board of Directors – made up of six mayoral appointees and one member of Denver’s City Council – makes all investment and policy decisions for the organization, while a separate Board of Advisors counsels the organization on issues of program policy and operation.

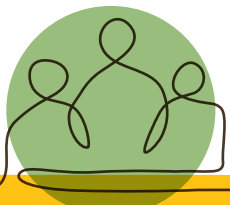


WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

“I like it when I see voters being savvy investors – the Denver Preschool Program is one of those times. Investments in quality preschool return seven dollars for every dollar put in. High-quality preschool may well be the smartest long-term investment we can make to keep our economy competitive.”



-Kelly J. Brough,
President and CEO, Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce



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