



2013

Report to the Community

5,020	4-year-olds received tuition support from DPP
252	preschools rated for quality participated in DPP
89%	of 4-year-olds attended a high quality preschool

**FUNDING
QUALITY
PRESCHOOL
FOR DENVER**

Dear Friends of the Denver Preschool Program,

Change marked 2013.

Since I began chairing the Denver Preschool Program Board of Directors last year, Mayor Hancock appointed four new members:

- Sarah Daily Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist at Child Trends;
- David Cole, Local Intergovernmental Consultant;
- Arthur Gonzales, Ph.D., President and CEO of Denver Health; and,
- Janice Sinden, Chief of Staff for the Office of Mayor Michael B. Hancock

Our dedicated CEO Eileen Piper stepped down in April 2013, leaving behind a strong foundation for her successor, Jennifer Landrum, the former Vice President of Early Childhood Initiatives for the Colorado Children's Campaign. Jennifer brings to DPP extensive policy experience in early childhood learning and development—including work on the 2006 Preschool Matters initiative that created the Denver Preschool Program.

Our annual evaluations routinely show how preschool prepares children for kindergarten—academically, socially and emotionally. So we were encouraged that the first longitudinal analysis of third-graders with DPP experience in Denver Public Schools indicates that this progress persists. Four years after leaving DPP, third-graders in Denver Public Schools (DPS) did better than their non-DPP peers on Colorado's standardized reading test, the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP). This milestone matters. Children who learn to read by third grade are ready to read to learn in fourth grade.

After a year long pilot, DPP began integrating into our classrooms a new quality rating and improvement system. This powerful tool aligns robust professional development with classroom observations of what really matters—how teachers interact with their students to support social development and academic achievement. (see CLASS®)

As the shift from local network news and daily newspapers to social media reshapes the marketing landscape, we continue to look for new ways to reach Denver families and maximize preschool enrollment. Five award-winning photographers donated their time and talent to a traveling photography exhibit, The Power of Preschool. Some of our favorite photos from this exhibit grace this report.

So just as change marked 2013, so did progress.

Theresa Peña

“At Denver Preschool Program we are a champion for making quality preschool possible for all of Denver’s 4-year-olds because the more our children learn at 4, the better they read at 8, and the more self-sufficient and productive they are at 30.”



Theresa Peña,
Chair



Jennifer Landrum,
President and CEO

"It's easy for my daughter to focus and know what she's supposed to do and how to do it in kindergarten because she had that experience in preschool already."



Jo Marie Garcia,
DPP Parent



DPP STUDENT PROGRESS

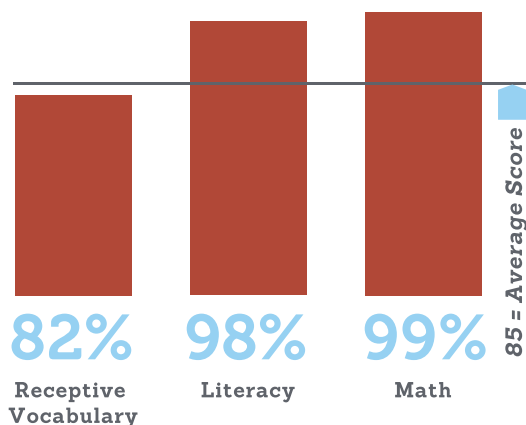
A high quality preschool experience makes a measurable difference in the lives of Denver 4-year-olds and beyond. Extensive evaluation of DPP students show that they are ready to enter kindergarten and that their success persists throughout school. The following figures in this report show the progression of the DPP class of 2008-2009 from preschool through third grade.

The analysis was conducted through a collaboration of APA Consulting, The Institute at Clayton Early Learning, Denver Public Schools, and researchers at the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado, Denver.



KINDERGARTEN READY

Most Children Scored Average or Above

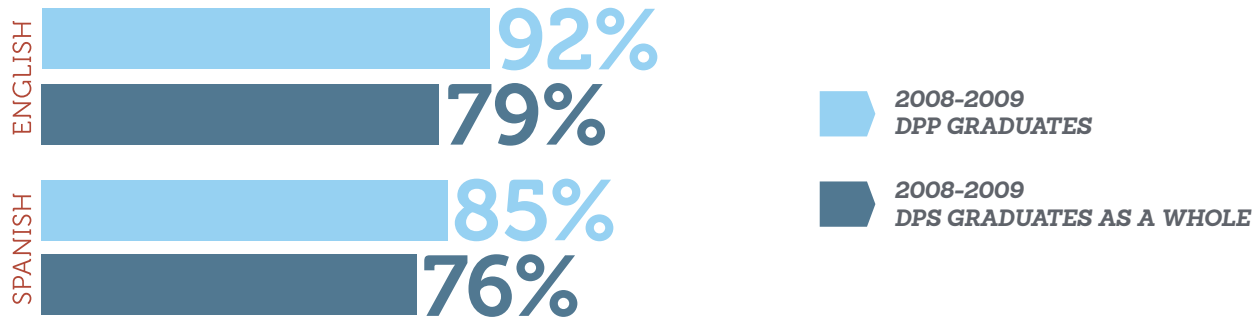


2008-2009 DPP Graduating Class
Spring 2009 Standardized Assessments



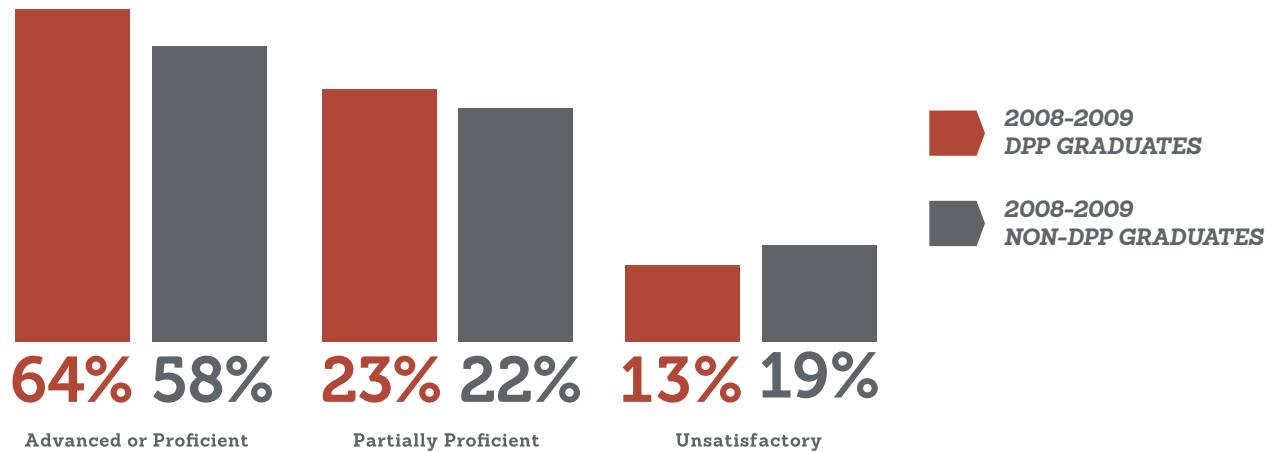
KINDERGARTEN **FOLLOW UP**

DPP Children Read Better in Kindergarten



READING BY **THIRD GRADE**

Denver Public Schools 2013 Third Grade TCAP Reading Scores



RAISING THE BAR **ON QUALITY**

The quality of our preschools drives our children's achievement.

That's why DPP invested \$1.2 million in 2013 to improve the quality of preschool programs. We fund coaching for school leaders and teachers, professional development that includes college coursework, classroom materials, and quality ratings.

In our unrelenting efforts to raise the bar on quality, DPP has integrated into its preschool rating system a classroom observation tool that focuses on effective teaching and helps teachers understand how their interactions with students boost learning. Robert C. Pianta, Ph.D., Dean of the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education, developed the Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS®) based on extensive research. A notable strength of the additional tool

is how it aligns classroom observations with robust professional development.

CLASS® compliments the Qualistar Rating™ and the National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation that DPP has used since 2007 to measure classroom quality. The Qualistar Rating™ looks largely at what are called structural factors such as the learning environment, staff training, and adult-to-child ratios.

DPP investments improve preschool quality; more than 82 percent of our preschool partners earned top 3 or 4-Star ratings during the 2012/2013 school year, and 89 percent of DPP children were enrolled in these top rated schools in 2013.

"CLASS® gives you a chance to show what you have done, how the children are doing and how engaged they are."



Shelli Johnson,
Teacher at Lil People
Learning Center,
Green Valley Ranch



Davin (middle), Zoe (right), King Baptist Child Development Center. Photo by Sheba Wheeler

PARENT & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Preschools promoted their offerings to families looking for a preschool at the first-annual DPP Preschool Showcase in January 2013. Sponsors who made the event a success include: Denver Health, CBS 4, Entravision, Rocky Mountain PBS, US Bank and the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado, Denver.

DPP also reached out to prospective families at the KIDS Fun Fest sponsored by Rocky Mountain PBS, the Highlands Street Fair, Juneteenth Music Festival, the Latino Summit on Child Welfare and the Losing Ground Summit hosted by the Colorado Black Round Table, the I-NEWS Network at Rocky Mountain PBS, as well as a host of other neighborhood and community events.



ONE BOOK **4** COLORADO

The success of our original Preschool One Book, One Denver has expanded into a strong, statewide partnership with the early literacy initiative of Colorado Lt. Governor Joe Garcia.

Lt. Governor Garcia joined Denver Mayor Micheal B. Hancock who took time out of their hectic schedules to read *Duck on a Bike*, the winning book for the 2013 One Book 4 Colorado. The Colorado Children's Museum hosted the 2013 Drop Everything and Read party, thanks to Mike Yankovich, the museum's CEO and President, who also chairs DPP's Advisory Board.

TUITION SUPPORT

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.





2013 EXPENDITURES

Distribution Breakdown



- Tuition** \$8,964,380
- Quality** \$1,242,142
- Registration** \$468,166
- Evaluation** \$441,405
- Outreach** \$398,244
- Administration** \$535,903

GOVERNANCE

A successful 2006 ballot initiative dedicated a portion of Denver's sales tax revenues to fund the Denver Preschool Program and create an independent, non-profit organization to oversee its operation. 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.



TOMORROW **STARTS NOW**

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Gloria Higgins
Janice Sinden
Sarah Daily, Ph.D.

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Susan Steele
David Suppes
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President and CEO

Ellen Baskerville
Director of Outreach

Ed Cervone
Director of Operations

Lionel Espinoza
Director of Quality Initiatives

For more information, visit **DPP.org**



Daniel, Family Flex, Photo by Kevin Hartfield

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