

2006

2014

REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY



FUNDING QUALITY PRESCHOOL FOR DENVER **THEN & NOW**



THANK YOU
FOR CONTINUED
SUPPORT
THROUGH
2026

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM,
2014 WAS A YEAR OF TRANSITION.

We saw the culmination of the initial phase of the Denver Preschool Program, from 2006 through 2014, during which the foundation for supporting a young child's educational journey was built. **What started as a vision to see every 4-year-old in Denver attending a quality preschool evolved into a sustainable national model for others to emulate.** Thanks to the community's support and recognition of the value of preschool, the Denver Preschool Program's dedicated sales tax was renewed through 2026 by voters in the November 2014 election. This demonstration of confidence enables us to look toward our future, and that of Denver's children, with great promise.

When the organization first formed it was what our community needed. The founders worked tirelessly toward the goal of providing tuition support and resources necessary to deliver high quality preschool to our 4-year-olds. Because of their efforts, we have learned how to fulfill our mission despite economic conditions, without risk to program delivery. We've been able to provide tuition support to 31,816 children across our community since our first year of service, and have played an instrumental role in raising the bar on quality delivery for all preschoolers.

Ongoing research and attention to the field of early childhood education has taught us a great deal since voters first supported preschool in 2006, and awareness is growing around the importance of developing young brains today for success tomorrow. We have greater insight into early achievement gaps and what drives them, and we continue to develop methods for measuring and achieving quality in the classroom.



JENNIFER LANDRUM,
PRESIDENT AND CEO

In 2014 the second group of Denver Preschool Program participants took the third-grade standardized reading, writing and math assessments, Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP). As with the results from the first longitudinal study reported last year, this year's results showed that those who participated in DPP outperformed those who did not. Reading on grade level by third grade is a significant predictor of success in school and is an accomplishment we're proud to share.

As we look ahead, we'll be evolving our efforts from program start-up to ongoing improvements in the classroom experience. We're excited about what's possible, and see a bright future for the Denver Preschool Program's next 12 years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Landrum".

Jennifer Landrum, President and CEO





TUITION SUPPORT

TUITION SUPPORT FUNDS FUTURES

What does tuition support for a 4-year-old lead to? It leads to a secure beginning that delivers a lifetime of benefits. The Denver Preschool Program offers tuition support to every Denver family who has a child in their last year of preschool, no matter what neighborhood they call home or their level of income. Since we began providing support in 2007, two-thirds of the families we've served have been those with the greatest need.

In the 2013-2014 school year, we provided tuition support totaling \$8,947,677, making it possible for 4,815 4-year-olds to attend preschool across our community. The average full-day tuition credit was \$236 per month, with the highest credit reaching \$617.

2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

\$8,947,677

IN TUITION SUPPORT

MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR

4,815

4-YEAR-OLDS TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL

WITH AN AVERAGE FULL-DAY SUPPORT OF **\$236/MO**

WE'RE PROUD OF THE OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE – BECAUSE THIS KIND OF EARLY INVESTMENT PAYS LONG-TERM DIVIDENDS.

PARENT & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As in past years, in 2014 the Denver Preschool Program continued to connect families to quality preschools by providing resources to make informed decisions. In addition to our community-based awareness campaign targeted to parents of 4-year-olds, we enhanced our online "Find a Preschool" tool, which helps parents learn how to get started in their search. We also created an easy-to-understand online guide, "How to Choose A Preschool" which offers suggestions for selection of the right preschool for family and child, and a checklist of things to evaluate on a first visit.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

When Edgar Lopez started preschool a whole new world of letters, colors and numbers opened up for him. His natural curiosity was enhanced in new surroundings as he explored and experimented, eager to figure out how things worked. His mother, Jaira, saw dramatic changes in Edgar's social and emotional development. "My once shy little boy was now outgoing and eager to make new friends," she noted.

Edgar began to continually ask 'why' about everything. He wanted to know how things worked.

– Jaira Lopez

EDGAR IS ONE OF THE 31,816 DENVER CHILDREN WHOSE FAMILY HAS RECEIVED TUITION SUPPORT FROM DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM TO ATTEND ONE OF 250 QUALITY-RATED PRESCHOOLS THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY.



ATTENTION TO QUALITY

QUALITY ALWAYS HAS A SEAT IN THE CLASSROOM

The Denver Preschool Program has always had a vested interest in creating brighter futures for our community's youngest members. That's why we continually strive to improve the quality of the preschool experience by identifying and understanding the latest research, policy and innovations in early childhood learning.

When we began programming in 2007 our focus was largely on ensuring quality among DPP programs using the Qualistar Rating™ to develop quality improvement plans for providers. The latest research highlights the importance of the teacher-child relationship and its impact on teaching and learning. We have added significant investments in CLASS®, the Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System, which focuses on positive teacher-child interactions. CLASS® complements the Qualistar Rating™ and the National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation for measuring classroom quality that DPP has used since its founding in 2006.

In the 2013-2014 school year, DPP invested \$1.24 million toward improving the quality of preschool in our community, and 93 percent of our preschool partners earned a quality rating of 3 or 4 Stars.

2007 – 2010
PROGRAM
FOCUS

Qualistar
Rating™

2010 – 2014
CLASSROOM
FOCUS

Classroom
Assessment
Scoring System
(CLASS®)

DPP Classroom
Rating

2014 | | | |
TEACHER
FOCUS

AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, WE'RE REWORKING OUR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK TO INCORPORATE ONGOING BEST PRACTICES AND INNOVATIVE WAYS IN WHICH TEACHERS CAN DELIVER QUALITY EXPERIENCES IN THE CLASSROOM.



FURTHERING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SHARING IS ALWAYS ENCOURAGED

Denver Preschool Program understands that progress in early childhood education is the result of collaboration between providers, policymakers, parents and education experts across the country. We're proud to be able to share our success and knowledge with others attempting to develop and implement a similar model for preschool in their communities.

In 2014, DPP hosted the "Strive Partnership Visit" with a team from Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio, during which we shared our history, values, program delivery details and results. We conducted workshops on community outreach and communication strategy, as well as on the topic of quality and how to ensure its ongoing delivery.

As part of the visit DPP facilitated focus groups with providers and parents so the Cincinnati/Dayton team could understand first-hand the value of implementing a program like DPP in their community.

THE DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COMMUNITY BY ACTING AS A RESOURCE FOR OTHERS, AND BY CONTINUING TO CHAMPION THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESCHOOL FOR A CHILD'S LONG-TERM SUCCESS IN SCHOOL.

LEARNING MADE FUN

Xavier is an only child with a stay-at-home mother. He had always been smart, but after he started preschool his parents noticed positive changes in his social and emotional development. "His first few years were spent mostly with me and his dad. During that time, he would hide from new people. But now, when we go to the playground, he runs up to other children and is excited to meet them."

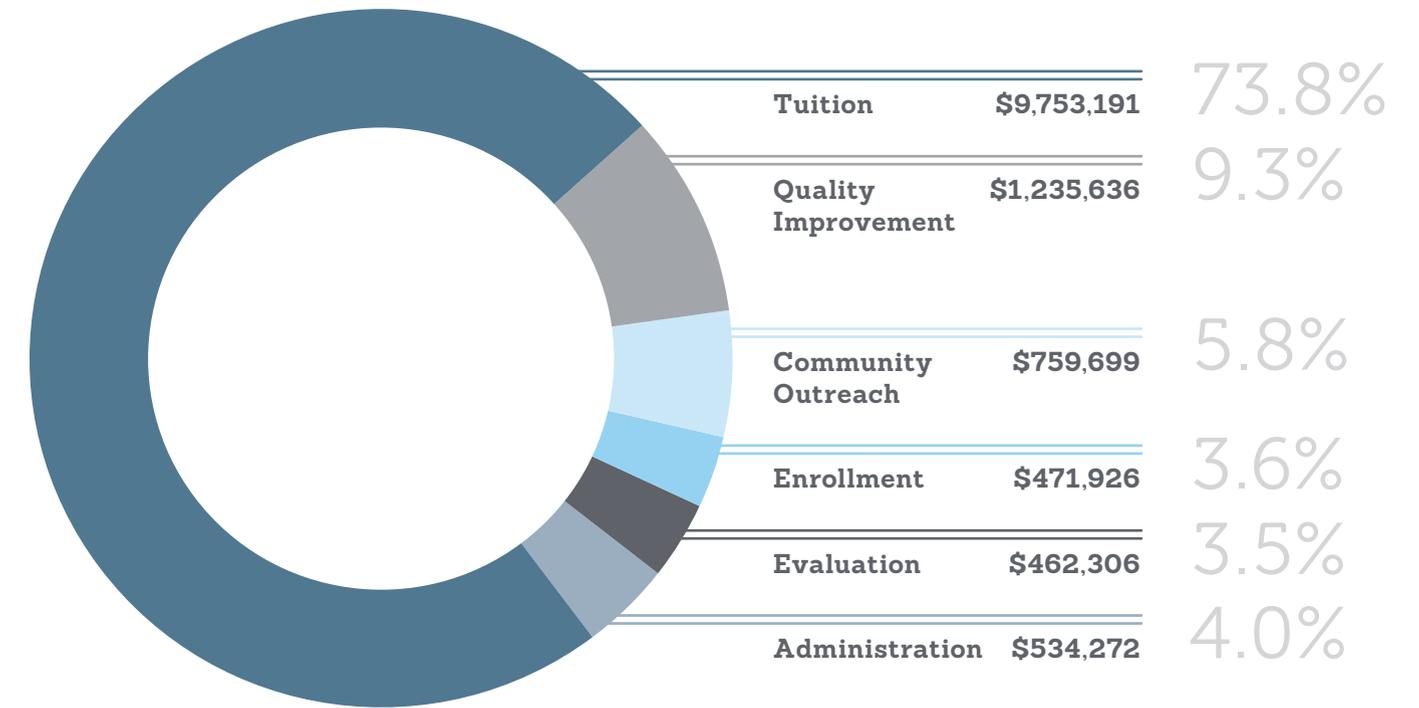
“Being in preschool taught him to share and how to function in a group. That’s not something that I could ever teach him at home with me.”

– Jaharri Asten

ACCORDING TO FOLLOW-UP STUDIES, THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN DPP SHOW BETTER LITERACY AND MATH SKILLS THAN THEIR NON-DPP COUNTERPARTS, XAVIER IS AMONG THOSE LIKELY TO GET A SMART START ON KINDERGARTEN, AND A GREAT START TO LIFE.



2014 CALENDAR YEAR - AUDITED FINANCIALS DISTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN



“The Denver Preschool Program has proven that high quality early childhood education helps prepare our children, no matter where they live or what color their skin, to enter kindergarten ready to learn. Now we will be able to expand that support.”

– Mayor Michael B. Hancock

GOVERNANCE

In 2006, the Denver Preschool Program began with a successful ballot initiative that dedicated a portion of Denver's sales tax revenues to fund preschool for all Denver 4-year-olds.



DURING THE FALL 2014 ELECTION – AHEAD OF THE EXPIRATION DATE OF PROGRAM FUNDING – VOTERS WERE ASKED TO INCREASE THE TAX THAT FUNDS DPP FROM .12 PERCENT TO .15. AGAIN, **DENVER DEMONSTRATED ITS SUPPORT FOR PRESCHOOL BY VOTING “YES”** ON 2A AND EXTENDING DPP FUNDING THROUGH 2026.

The initiative was led by the Preschool Matters campaign, championed by Mayor Michael B. Hancock and supported by a broad group of civic, business, community and early childhood education leaders.

Moving forward, the additional funds will be used to increase the number of Denver 4-year-olds served, to provide greater tuition assistance to program participants, and to reinstate summer programming.



PRESCHOOL MATTERS ENDORSERS

Clayton Early Learning
Colorado Association
for Gifted & Talented
Colorado Children's Campaign
Democrats for Education Reform
Denver Early Childhood Council
Denver Public Schools
Denver Urban Ministries
EPIC (Executives Partnering
to Investing in Children)
Florence Crittenton Services
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For more information, visit [DPP.org](https://www.dpp.org)

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**FUNDING
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PRESCHOOL
FOR DENVER**