



Seattle Preschool Program

voluntary, high-quality, affordable

Provider Contracting & Enrollment

Meeting Objectives

- Define contracting priorities
- Inform student enrollment system

Legislative Guidelines

- Contracting with Seattle Public Schools will be a priority. Additionally, priority will be given to qualified organizations meeting the standards listed herein that:
 - Have the capacity to provide more preschool classrooms for the program.
 - Make care available before and after preschool classroom hours, on holidays, and over the summer.
 - Provide dual language programs.
 - Have higher ratings in Early Achievers and higher scores in CLASS and ECERS-R.
 - Are located in areas with the lowest academic achievement as reflected in 3rd grade reading and 4th grade math performance on Measures of Student Progress (MSP) or subsequently adopted assessments, as well as those with high concentrations of low-income households, English language learners, and incoming kindergartners.
 - Provide preschool services through Head Start or Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).
 - Have existing contracts with the City to provide preschool services. (Seattle Preschool Program Action Plan, 2014)
 - The program will be open to Seattle residents who:
 - Are 4-years-old on August 31st prior to the beginning of a school year of enrollment, or
 - Are 3-years-old on August 31st from families with income equal to 300% of Federal Poverty Level or below.
- As the program is ramping up, priority will be given to:
 - Children who are currently enrolled in preschool with a contracted organization.
 - Children whose sibling is currently enrolled in the Seattle Preschool Program and would be concurrently enrolled with the sibling in the year of enrollment.
 - Children living in close proximity to available program classrooms.
 - Children who are 4-years-old relative to children who are 3-years-old, both during the initial enrollment process and when there is a wait list.
 - (Seattle Preschool Program Action Plan, 2014)



Why Provider Contracting and Student Enrollment Matters

- Studies in the US and abroad tend to find that preschool education has larger benefits for low-income children, but that high-quality programs still have substantive benefits for other children.
- Several studies find substantial preschool education effects for children from all economic strata.
- Research in the US and abroad found larger gains for low income children when programs contained more children from middle income families.

Additional Resources

- Seattle Preschool Program Action Plan - *May 14, 2014*
- BERK Consulting Recommendations - *May 2, 2014*
- Seattle City Council “Preschool for All” (Resolution 31478) - *September 23, 2013*

All documents can be found here: <http://www.seattle.gov/education/about-the-levy/early-learning/seattle-preschool-program/documents>

