

Seattle Preschool Program

Program Description

The City of Seattle’s [award-winning](#) Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) provides preschool to 3- and 4- year olds in Seattle, with free or affordable tuition and high-quality learning environments that promote kindergarten readiness. Funded by the 2018 voter-approved Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) Levy, the program includes:

- Preschool tuition assistance for Seattle families
- Quality practice and professional development supports for early learning educators
- Classroom services, including behavioral and developmental supports
- Organizational and facilities development
- Dual language programming
- Inclusion-based special education
- Child care subsidies for participating families

Programs are provided in partnership with a network of preschool providers throughout the city, including community-based providers, Seattle Public Schools, and Family Child Care (FCC) programs.

History

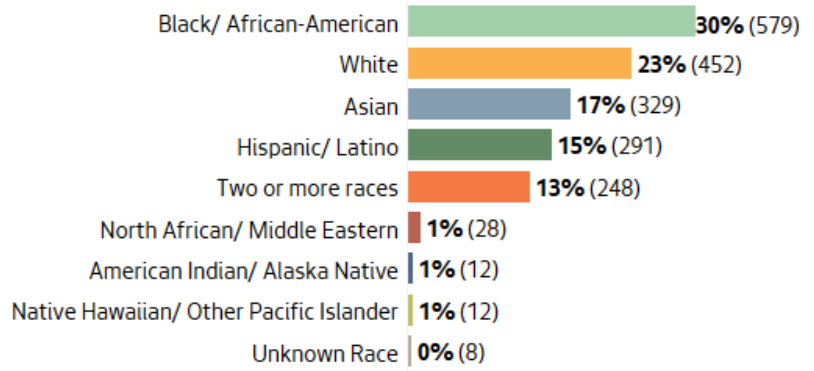
Seattle Preschool Program Growth					
Year	Partner Count	Site Count	Classroom Count	SPP Seats	Children Served
2015 - 16	5	13	15	280	283
2016 - 17	10	26	33	627	628
2017 - 18	13	49	65	1,016	910
2018 - 19	20	61	87	1,421	1292
2019 - 20	21	67	105	1,733	1,542
2020 - 21	24	74	123	1,782	1,672
2021 - 22	26	87	130	2,040	1,959

DEEL launched SPP in the 2015-2016 school year with 15 classrooms. Since then, SPP has expanded to include almost 130 classrooms serving nearly 2,000 children annually, with over 6,500 children served in total. DEEL also created SPP Pathway to support providers’ transition to SPP by providing resources and guidance needed to meet quality standards.

Budget

SPP is funded by the FEPP Levy through the 2025-26 school year. DEEL invests an average of \$45.3 million each school year, with \$317.2 million allocated over 7-years.

Race/Ethnicity of SPP Children, SY 2021-22



Participants

In the 2021-2022 school year, SPP served nearly 2,000 children, with 77% of students identifying as students of color. The graph to the right shows SPP student demographics by race and ethnicity.

Indicators

To understand how SPP is supporting children, DEEL reviews and reports on the following indicators:

Kindergarten Readiness

DEEL looks at Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) to assess SPP students’ readiness for kindergarten. The chart to the right shows the percentage of former SPP students enrolled in SPS who met six of six domains on the WaKIDS kindergarten readiness assessment: social-emotional, cognitive, literacy, language, physical, and mathematics.

Headline Indicator: Kindergarten Readiness					
<i>Kindergarten readiness increased each school year from 2018 to 2022</i>					
Year (conducted in October)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
SPP children meeting all six WaKIDS assessment domains	53%	59%	<i>No assessment due to COVID</i>	63%	62%

Child Growth in SPP

95% of SPP children experienced growth in the 2021-22 school year. Children are considered to have grown within SPP if assessments they met or exceeded Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) developmental expectations for their age group from fall to spring.

Supporting Indicator: Child Growth				
<i>Child growth as assessed by TSG* increased from 2019 to 2022.</i>				
School Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Children experiencing growth during SPP	93%	<i>No assessment due to COVID</i>	94%	95%

Classroom Quality

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) assesses interactions between teachers and children to determine teachers' professional development needs. CLASS assesses quality in three ways:

- **Emotional Support:** Assesses teacher's promotion of a nurturing and safe environment for children to learn.
- **Classroom Organization:** Focuses on how teachers manage and redirect behavior, how they manage instructional time and routines, and how they manage activities to expand students' interests.
- **Instructional Supports:** Assesses the interactions through which teachers enable high order thinking skills, provide feedback, encourage creativity and reasoning, and promote language development.

SPP classroom quality scores exceed national averages for teachers meeting for emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support standards, according to [2020 data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center](#).

Supporting Indicator: Classroom Quality				
School Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
SPP teachers meeting standards for providing emotional support	89%	86%	<i>No assessment due to COVID</i>	90%
SPP teachers meeting standards for classroom organization	65%	72%	<i>No assessment due to COVID</i>	65%
SPP teachers meeting standards for instructional support	10%	9%	<i>No assessment due to COVID</i>	17%

Teacher Qualifications

DEEL strives to support all lead teachers to earn a bachelor's degree or higher, with at least 30 Early Childhood Education (ECE) credits through educator scholarships and professional learning opportunities.

Supporting Indicator: Teacher Qualifications				
School Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
SPP teachers with a bachelor's degree or higher with at least 30 ECE credits	58%	64%	80%	76%

Resources and More Information

View the following resources to learn more about DEEL's investments in preschool and kindergarten readiness:

- [DEEL reports and data webpage, including links to annual reports and SPP evaluations](#)
- [FEPP Levy Implementation and Evaluation Plan](#)

For more information about SPP, [visit our website](#) or contact education@seattle.gov.