

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 preschool for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP)
- 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 (SPS), 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	606
2017-18	13	49	65	1,016	1,001
2018-19	20	62	88	1,421	1,484
2019-20	21	67	105	1,733	1,717
2020-21	24	74	119	1,723	1,658
2021-22	26	86	128	2,008	1,934
2022-23	25	88	134	2,120	2,042
2023-24	26	90	137	2,168	2,182
2024-25	27	97	149	2,411	2,358
2025-26	29	103	156	2,556	TBD

DEEL launched SPP in the 2015-16 school year with 15 classrooms. Since then, SPP has expanded to include over 150 classrooms serving over 2,500 children annually.

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.

Participants

In the 2023-24 school year, SPP served nearly 2,200 children, with 75% of students identifying as students of color. The graph to the right shows SPP student demographics by race and ethnicity.

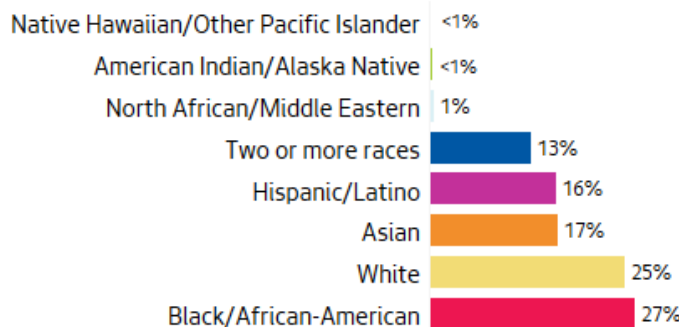
Indicators

To understand supporting reviews and following

- **Meeting**

assessed

Race/Ethnicity of SPP Children, SY 2023-24



how SPP is children, DEEL reports on the indicators:

“Widely Held Expectations”:

Preschoolers are in meeting the Teaching Strategies

Gold (TSG) social-emotional, cognitive, literacy, language, physical, and mathematics domains in fall, winter, and spring. The chart below shows the percentage of SPP participants who met widely held expectations for their age in spring of SPP.

- **Kindergarten Readiness:** DEEL looks at Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) to assess SPP students’ readiness for kindergarten. The chart below 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.

	Supporting Indicator	Headline Indicator
SPP Year	% of SPP children meeting TSG widely held expectations	% of SPP children meeting WaKIDS Readiness Standard*
2020-21	78%	63%
2021-22	79%	62%
2022-23	81%	68%
2023-24	83%	62%

* For children who were 4 years old in the “SPP Year” and received a WaKIDS assessment in SPS the following October.

In addition, DEEL monitors SPP quality via:

- **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.
- **The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS):** This externally conducted standard assessment rates interactions between teachers and children to determine teachers' professional development needs. CLASS assesses quality on a scale of 1-7 in three ways:
 - **Emotional Support:** Assesses teachers’ promotion of a nurturing and safe environment for children to learn. (DEEL goal=6)
 - **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. (DEEL goal=6)
 - **Instructional Supports:** Assesses the interactions through which teachers enable high order thinking skills, provide feedback, encourage creativity and reasoning, and promote language development. (DEEL goal=4.5)

SPP Year	Teacher Qualifications	Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)		
	% of SPP lead teachers with a bachelor’s degree or higher with at least 30 ECE credits	Average Emotional Support Score	Average Classroom Organization Score	Average Instructional Supports Score
2020-21	83%	Cancelled due to COVID-19		
2021-22	79%	6.6	6.2	3.2
2022-23	69%	6.7	6.4	3.8
2023-24	71%	6.5	6.2	3.3
Head Start Comparison	68%*	6.0**	5.8**	2.9**

* 2024 Data, Program Indicators Report, Access via [Head Start Enterprise System](#)

** [2020 Data](#)

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.