



Denver Preschool Program

Presentation to City Council

October 16, 2024

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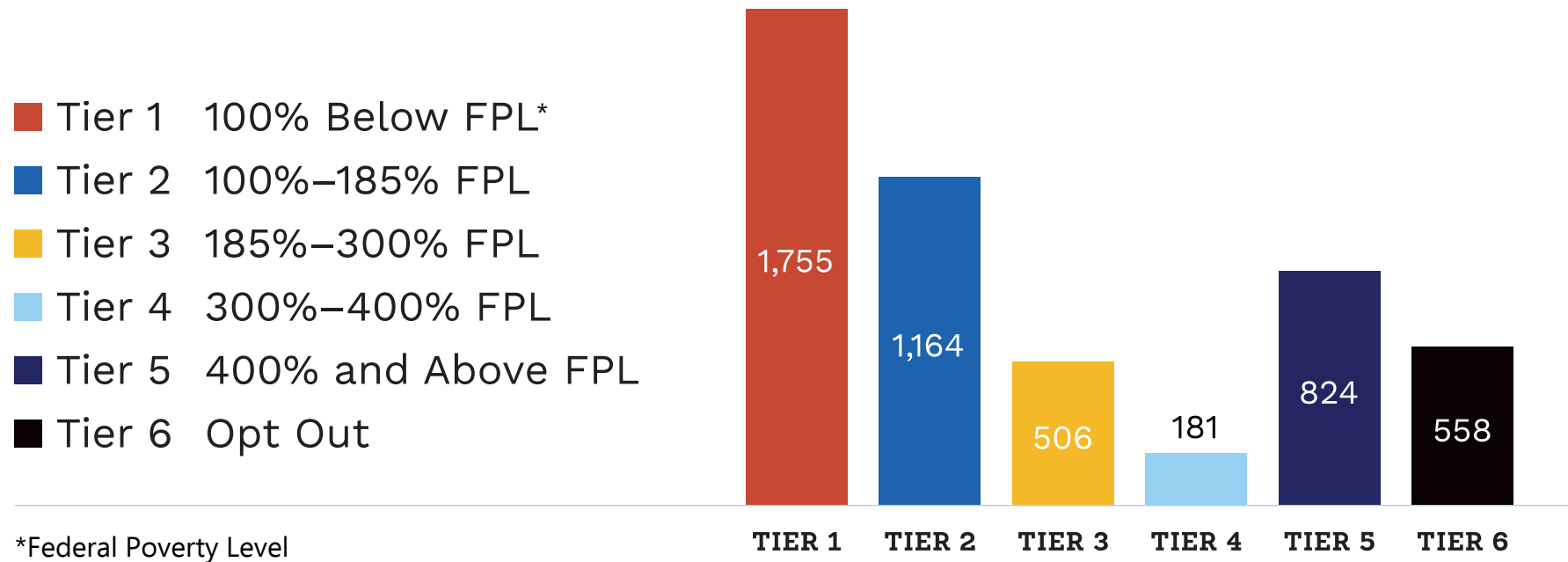
**Elevating Early Childhood
Education in Denver since 2006**



Who We Are

The Denver Preschool Program (DPP) is a vital community initiative dedicated to ensuring that every child in Denver has access to high-quality preschool education. Since the nonprofit's inception in 2006, DPP has been committed to preparing Denver's youngest learners for kindergarten and beyond by making preschool accessible and affordable for all Denver families.

Unique Beneficiaries By Tier



Our Impact

Children Served

Over **70,000 children** have benefited from DPP's funding and programs since 2006. DPP supports **60%** of Denver 4-year-olds.

Financial Support

The average cost of care for quality preschool in Denver is between **\$1,200 and \$1,500 a month**, making preschool one of the highest costs for a household. DPP supports Denver families by helping to make preschool more affordable. In the 2022-2023 school year alone, **DPP awarded more than \$21 million in tuition** support to families, helping them afford quality preschool education for their children.

Diverse Enrollment

DPP supports children from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds, with a focus on **equitable access to high-quality early childhood education**.

Quality Improvement

DPP invests over **\$1 million each year** to help preschools improve, ensuring kids get the best start in their education. As a result, **75%** of DPP's preschools have **top Colorado Shines ratings of 4 or 5 stars**, compared to just 25% of preschools statewide.

Value To The Community

Educational Readiness

Our research shows that children who attend high-quality preschool are better prepared for kindergarten, setting the stage for future academic success and lifelong learning.

Economic Benefits

Every dollar invested in early childhood education yields significant long-term economic benefits, including higher graduation rates, reduced crime rates, and a more skilled workforce.

(Heckman et al., 2010)

Parental Support

DPP provides critical financial relief to families, allowing parents to pursue employment or further education and thereby enhancing the community's overall economic stability.

Community Strengthening

By investing in our youngest residents, we are building a stronger, more cohesive community that values education and opportunity for all.

Value To The Community

Universal Access

DPP is open to all Denver families with children in their last year of preschool before kindergarten, regardless of income level.

Sliding Scale Tuition

Our sliding-scale tuition credits are designed to provide greater financial assistance to families with lower household incomes, making quality preschool education equitably accessible to everyone.

Provider Partnerships

DPP partners with over 260 preschools across Denver, including community-based centers, Denver Public Schools, and home-based providers, ensuring a wide range of options for families.

Quality Rating System

We utilize Colorado Shines, a comprehensive quality rating and improvement system, to assess and enhance the quality of preschool programs, helping parents make informed decisions about their child's education.

Key Milestones

2006

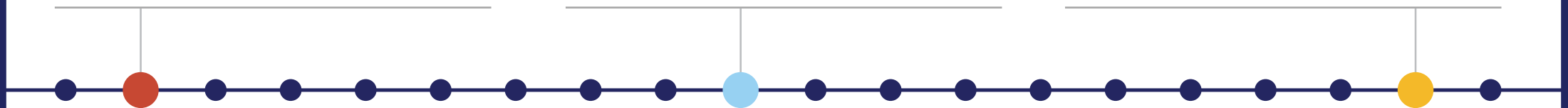
Denver voters originally authorized the Denver Preschool Program, establishing a funding mechanism to support preschool education for all Denver children.

2014

Denver voters reauthorized and expanded the DPP, allowing for increased funding and support to enhance the quality and accessibility of preschool education.

2023

DPP received its latest voter-approved reauthorization, ensuring continued support and growth of the program to meet the evolving needs of Denver's families and children.



Success Stories

Increased Kindergarten Readiness

Data shows that DPP participants demonstrate significant gains in literacy, math, and social-emotional skills upon entering kindergarten.

Parental Satisfaction

Surveys indicate that 95% of parents are highly satisfied with DPP's preschool options and support.

Long-term Impact

Longitudinal studies have shown that children participating in DPP are more likely to excel academically, have lower retention rates, have better attendance, be more likely to be redesignated from English learner status and have higher SAT scores.



Better Together

Denver Preschool Program + Colorado Universal Preschool

In Denver, Colorado Universal Preschool (UPK) complements DPP's proven tuition credit and quality improvement programs. The two programs can be combined, providing more support for Denver families, maximizing financial support.

UPK funds up to 15 weekly preschool hours for each eligible child from August to May. However, 80% of Denver families need more support than what UPK Colorado provides. The Denver Preschool Program (DPP) complements UPK by offering full-day and extended care and support during summer. In response to the introduction of UPK Colorado, DPP has also expanded its Preschool of 3s program, allowing eligible families to enroll their children in preschool and start benefiting from early education even earlier.

Thank you for supporting Denver's children

We wish to thank Denver City officials and, most importantly, Denver voters for your continued support of Denver Preschool Program and for helping us expand our reach and impact. By investing in early childhood education, we are investing in the future of Denver.