

Colorado's Universal Preschool Program (UPK) Vision

Providing access to high-quality, affordable preschool prepares Colorado's children for kindergarten and beyond.

Assumptions:

- UPK collaboration with other CDEC Divisions, Colorado State Departments, and system partners improves the program's ability to achieve its outcomes.
- Dividing program functions among state and local actors increases efficiency and responsiveness.
- UPK funding is sufficient to support quality providers and workforce.

STRATEGIES

Develop and activate a long-term communication strategy

Enroll a variety of licensed center-, district-, and home-based providers
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Minimize burden and barriers for providers

Set and assess quality standards
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Respond to providers' quality improvement needs to meet learning goals for children

Fund up to 15 hours/week of preschool for all children or up to 30 hours/week for those with qualifying factors
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Seamlessly connect families to right-fit providers

PRIMARY OUTCOMES

AWARENESS

Families, providers, and the general public are aware of and educated about UPK

AVAILABILITY

Enough providers are enrolled in UPK to meet demand across the state

QUALITY

More UPK providers are implementing best practices to meet UPK learning goals for children

ACCESS

Preschool is more affordable for families
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Families have equitable access to enroll their child in a high-quality preschool of choice

END GOALS

More Colorado children in the year before kindergarten are enrolled in affordable preschools that meet learning goals

Kindergarten readiness improves across Colorado