

A photograph of two young children sitting at a light-colored table. In the foreground, a young girl with dark hair in a ponytail is looking down at a blue juice carton on the table. In the background, a younger child in a bright green shirt is smiling. A black stroller is visible on the right side of the frame. The text is overlaid on the left and center of the image.

Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Program Update

Board of Education

November 15, 2022

UPK Presentation Overview

- **Why** Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) aka Universal Preschool?
- **Who** is responsible for coordinating UPK in Douglas County?
- **Who** is eligible to participate in UPK starting in 2023-24?
- **What** is the timeline for UPK implementation?
- **What** is the current state of Preschool /PreK within DCSD?
- **What** are the recommendations for preparing for the 2023-24 SY?
- **What** additional questions might people have that we can answer?

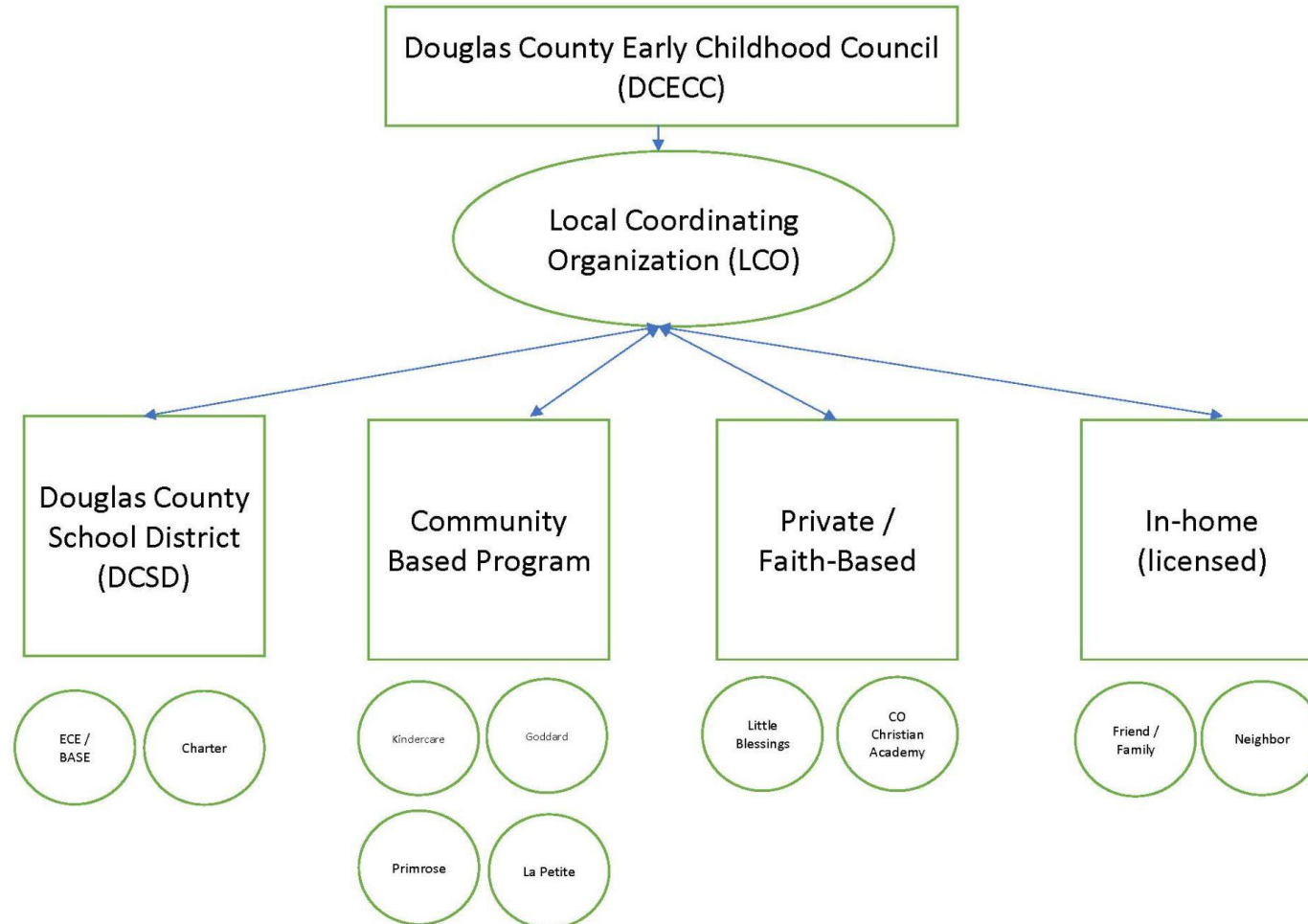
UPK Background

- Proposition EE (tax on nicotine products) in 2020- Voters supported funding for high-quality, universal preschool for 4 year olds in a mixed delivery system.
- House Bill 21-1304- Created a new State Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) to coordinate a unified early childhood system and ensure the equitable distribution of resources and programming, including the new universal, voluntary preschool program.
- The research shows that children who attend a high quality preschool in the first few years of life are more likely to experience higher levels of educational attainment and future income and less likely to experience poverty or enter the criminal justice system.

Douglas County UPK Organizational Structure

Colorado
Department of
Early Childhood
(CDEC)

Douglas County
Community



Note - The DCECC is not directed by the Douglas County School District

UPK Student Eligibility

- Beginning in the 23-24 school year, the new Colorado Department of Early Childhood is slated to fund at least **ten hours/week** of high-quality, voluntary preschool for every Colorado child in their year before entering kindergarten
- Children who will turn 4 on or before **October 1** are eligible to participate
- Pre-Kindergarten is non-compulsory for families (similar to Kindergarten)
- Participation in the UPK program is voluntary for both families and programs

UPK Student Eligibility

- Some children may qualify for additional state-funded hours based on the risk factors to-be-developed by the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC)
 - Information on the risk factors and additional hours of care will be published as it becomes available. Some examples of risk factors may include:
 - A child who lives in a low-income household (270% of the 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines)
 - A child who is a dual language learner and the native language spoken in the child's home is a language other than English, or the child's native language is not English
 - A child with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 - A child who is currently in a foster care home or in non-certified kinship care
 - A child who is identified as homeless

UPK Program Eligibility

- UPK is a mixed-delivery system, empowering families to choose the best setting for their child
 - Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to choose the preschool setting for their child from a list (still in development) of participating preschool providers
 - Any licensed child care provider may opt-in to participate in Universal Preschool (UPK)
 - This includes school-based, community-based, employer-based, or home-based care settings that are licensed by the State
 - UPK quality standards that providers must meet
 - The rulemaking process for quality standards will take place during the first half of 2023 – the exact timing has not been determined
 - Quality standards will be phased in, allowing providers to participate in UPK while working to meet those standards

DCSD UPK Enrollment Projections

Projected Enrollment

- Current proposal is to use 2022 count totals and hold flat for 5 year outlook

Indications of Potential Demand

- Historic enrollment/trend analysis
- 1st choice of school requests
- Total births (aggregated by ES attendance area)
- Total births vs. total Douglas County PK capacity

Estimating Total Demand

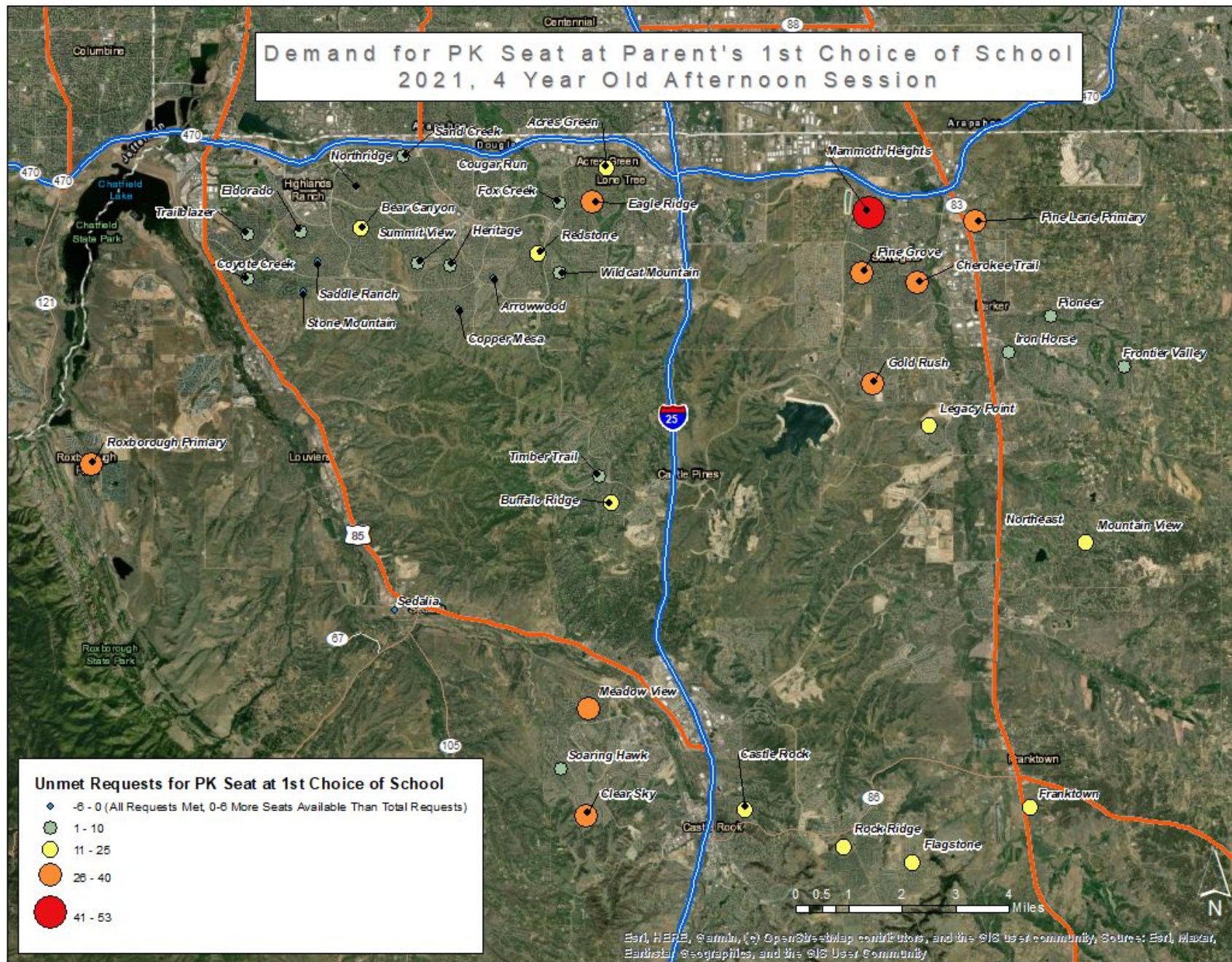
- The Department of Early Childhood anticipates approximately 2400-2700 children will be eligible for UPK in Douglas County (not just DCSD)
- Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) charge is to determine total Douglas County capacity for UPK enrollment
- Compare to total number of births 3 and 4 years prior to determine the “gap”
- If location data of service providers is available locations can be geocoded and compared to areas with a relatively high number of births

**Subject to data availability and limitations. LCO capacity data timeline and format is currently unknown and birth data is required to be aggregated.*

Current DCSD families identify their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of school upon enrolling their child in DCSD's Preschool program. Each PK facility has a total capacity determined by the number of classrooms on site.

The map to the right indicates locations of relatively high and low demand by subtracting the total number of parent requests for that PK program as their first choice of school minus the total capacity of that particular PK program. The resulting difference is a negative number, but is symbolized as an absolute value to better demonstrate the magnitude of demand for that location.

**Note* Not all DCSD facilities have a preschool location. In particular, some elementary schools that are near or at capacity do not have a preschool located in the facility.*



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DCSD Preschool Capacity Data

DCSD Current Capacity

Early Childhood Education:

- 67 classrooms (AM & PM sessions)
- 4 y/o with IEP = 536
- 4 y/o w/o IEP = 536
- 3 y/o with IEP = 536
- 3 y/o w/o IEP = 536

BASE PreKindergarten (5 classrooms):

- 4 y/o w/o IEP = 115

Total 4 y/o (only) = 1,192



DCSD Charter Schools

Charter	2022 PK Capacity
American Academy	252, 22 classes (PKR and LM campuses)
Aspen View Academy	48 (3 classes)
Ben Franklin Academy	72 (5 classes)
DCS Montessori	108 (6 classes)
North Star Academy	30 (2 classes)
Parker Core Knowledge	54 (3 classes)
Platte River Academy	40 (4 classes)
SkyView Academy	73 (4 classes)
World Compass Academy	60 (3 classes)

Comparison of ECE Preschool & BASE PreK

	ECE	BASE
Quality Rating	3	3
# Clases / Bldgs	67 / 44 (see list as of 22-23)	5 / 3 (CRUN, CCE, MVP)
# Students / Staff	16 / 2 + SSPs	24 / 2
Hours/day / Days/wk	2:45 (AM / PM) / 4 (M-Th)	10.5 (7:00-5:30) / 5 (M-F)
Calendar	Generally follows DCSD calendar including PD and break schedules	Provides PreK during PD days and breaks (185 or 260 days/year)
Tuition	Monthly: \$170 (2 days) / \$340 (4 days)	Daily: \$55 (full day), \$45 (half day IF the child is dual enrolled in ECE ½ day)
Staff Vacancies (as of 11/2/22)	ECI (4), EA IV (10), EA I (10), SLP (2.5), OT (.5)	Lead (1), Subs (3)

UPK Funding Information

The Colorado Universal Preschool Program is expected to save families an average of \$4,300 per year on child care.

Funding recommendation, per statute, must be at 40% of CO statewide base pupil rate.

For Example:

- Base pupil rate for 2023: \$8,068.94
- UPK minimum rate: \$3,227.58 PPOR

Note - Base pupil rate may vary by region

If funding remains available, other eligibility factors may be considered.

Additional eligibility factors may include:

- 3 or 4 y/o with an IEP
- 3 y/o who meet other qualifying criteria for eligibility (former CPP)
- 4 y/o who meet other qualifying criteria for eligibility (former CPP)

Note - only Administrative Units (AU's are districts) are eligible to serve eligible 3 year olds

UPK Enrollment Process

- Enrollment for UPK will begin January 2023 with a Universal Application, designed by the new Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) (still in process of being designed)
- All Universal Applications for UPK must be submitted through the Douglas County Local Coordinating Organization (LCO), which operates under the direction of the Douglas County Early Childhood Council (DCECC)
- Using the Universal Application, families will be able to search for participating providers in Douglas County and select up to 10 preferred providers from the available list
- Families will be able to input basic information, determine eligibility for additional hours, and be matched with a preschool provider, with slots available, in the geographic region of their choice

Timeline for Implementation

Program implementation for UPK begins in the 2023-24 school year:

- October 2022 - The Local Coordinating Organization provided a Douglas County Community Plan to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood
- November 2022 - CDEC Rulemaking on Funding and Additional Hours for Qualifying Factors
 - November 21 announcements and decisions about funding and additional hours
- January 2023 - Universal Application for UPK from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood expected to roll out
 - Enrollment for UPK begins (first round ~January 17-31, then on-going)
- On-Going - Continued planning based on new information from the CDEC, DCECC and LCO

DCSD UPK Task Force

The DCSD UPK Task Force is focused on the planning and implementation of UPK programming for the 2022-2023 school year. The Task Force is developing a Comprehensive, Collaborative, Unified PK-12 system that is integrated in our schools. The Task Force meets monthly for a half day.

Participants:

- Deputy Superintendent
- Assistant Superintendent
- Executive Director of Schools (x2)
- Building Principals (x5)
- Director, ECE/Preschool
- Director, BASE
- Area Manager, BASE

Additional Participants:

- Director, Health, Wellness and Prevention
- Coordinator, School Readiness & Assessment
- Coordinator, Postsecondary Readiness
- Director, DCECC
- Project Manager, LCO
- Others as Needed

Early Childhood Education in DCSD

Vision: We collaborate to serve a full continuum of learners where students feel safe, valued, and connected in order to reach their highest potential.

Focus To create an optimal play-based, early learning environment that enables all preschoolers to develop ready-to-learn skills. Learning opportunities are maximized through nurturing & responsive relationships and a variety of differentiated, instructional approaches. Our ECE teams are cognizant of the *whole child* and facilitate the development of foundational social-emotional, physical, language, and pre-academic skills in our youngest learners by utilizing developmentally appropriate, child-centered practices.

Reflections and Collaborative Discussions

- What will these changes mean for our schools?
 - Year One? Year Two? Year Three?
 - At the District level?
- How do I prepare and support our community?
- How does our preschool programs align with our District and school, vision and mission?
- What does preschool look like in our schools?
 - What are our strengths and celebrations? In what areas can we grow?
- How might preschool be more integrated into our comprehensive school program?

Preschool and UPK Considerations Moving Forward

- How do we address the capacity needs for preschool programming in schools and regions with increasing enrollment?
- For the 2024-2025 school year, how might we increase full day preschool options?
 - How do we address the different licensing requirements for full day programs versus half day programs?
 - What will be the cost of adding full day programs?
- Where might we have the capacity to increase full day options without eliminating other essential student programs?
- If we increase preschool programming, will we be able to hire high-quality staff?

Recommendation for 2023-24

- Douglas County School District is not required to increase UPK capacity based on the needs of the entire county
- **In year one**, there's no intention to significantly alter the current state of preschool or PreK programming (current program meets UPK time requirements) in DCSD as many variables are still unknown including:
 - Community Interest
 - Student Funding
 - Capacity Needs
 - Staffing Availability
 - Unification of Other Preschool Programs (CPP) and Services (July 2023)
 - Risk Factors and Additional Hours of Care
 - Many Other Unanswered Questions



Questions?

