

Goals

Raising the bar for quality and expanding access

Comparison of quality based on licensing

Goal

High Quality Pre-K

- ✓ A full-day, school year, state-funded program
- ✓ Small class size and student supports
- ✓ Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- ✓ Certified teachers

Mixed Delivery

- ✓ Community-based programs
- ✓ Center-based programs
- ✓ Headstart ✓ Public schools
- ✓ Family child care

Universal and Voluntary Access

- ✓ Implemented statewide
- ✓ No cost to families
- ✓ Voluntary enrollment
- ✓ Available regardless of income or other qualifying characteristics

How Delaware's minimum pre-K requirements would change

Today

1/2 day

24 max class size

No requirement

No bachelor's required

With Universal

full day

15 max class size

Developmentally appropriate curricula

BA and State Teaching Certification

Mixed delivery

Mixed delivery with increased collaboration between providers

845

children served per year in ECAP; 2% of 3-year-olds and 5% of 4-year-olds

50%

served overall in any pre-K setting

16,000

3- and 4-year-old children served per year

100%

have voluntary access

Delaware Pre-K Programs: Comparing Quality and Access



| Category | Requirements | Licensing (basic health and safety requirements for all providers) | Delaware Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) Head Start Look-Alike Program | Proposed Universal, High-Quality Pre-K Program* |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Ages served | | 0-12 | 3 and 4-year-olds | 4-year-olds, then 3-year-olds |
| Settings | | Mixed delivery: community based child care centers, public schools, Head Start | | |
| Length of day | | up to 12 hours | 3.5 hours minimum | school day (6-7 hours) |
| Teacher qualifications and pay | Teacher qualifications | High School Degree (HSD) + Child Development Associate Certificate (CDA) | 50% have Bachelor's degree (BA) in Early Childhood Education | BA + State Teaching Certification in Early Childhood Education |
| | Assistant teacher qualifications | HSD + 3 credits | AA/CDA | AA/CDA |
| | Pay | No requirements beyond minimum wage | | Salary schedule to establish minimum salaries across settings (aligned with K-12) |
| | Professional Development (PD) | 18 hours/year | 15-90 hours/year plus coaching | At least 15 hours/year + 1 coach for every 15-20 classrooms |
| Curriculum and assessment | Curriculum | Annual, written goals for children's development and education | Developmentally appropriate, research-based early childhood curricula | Developmentally appropriate, research-based early childhood curricula selected from state list |
| | Child assessments | None required | Standardized and structured child assessments | Standardized and structured child assessments from approved state list |
| Class size | Adult:Child ratio | 1:12 | 1:10 | 1:7.5 |
| | Max class size | 24 | 20 | 15 |
| Wellness supports | Health services | Staff member with a valid Administration of Medication certificate | Funds may be used for professional medical and oral health services when no other funding is available; Oral and other health services | 1 nurse for every 300 children in all settings |
| | Screening for developmental delays | None required | Developmental screenings required | Developmental screenings required |
| | Meals | None required | At least 1 meal required | Breakfast, lunch and snack free to all |
| Estimated cost per child per year | | \$9,360 (full day, year round care) | \$7,100 for half-full day, school year program | \$15-18K for full-day, school year program |
| Children served per year | | Unknown; many in private child care or half-day, part time care | 845 (2% of 3-year-olds and 5% of 4-year-olds) | About 16,000 (assume 80% of 10,000 3-year-olds, 10,000 4-year-olds) |