A group of diverse young children are sitting around a white table in a classroom, engaged in an activity. They are wearing colorful clothing and appear to be focused on their work. The background is bright and slightly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with large windows.

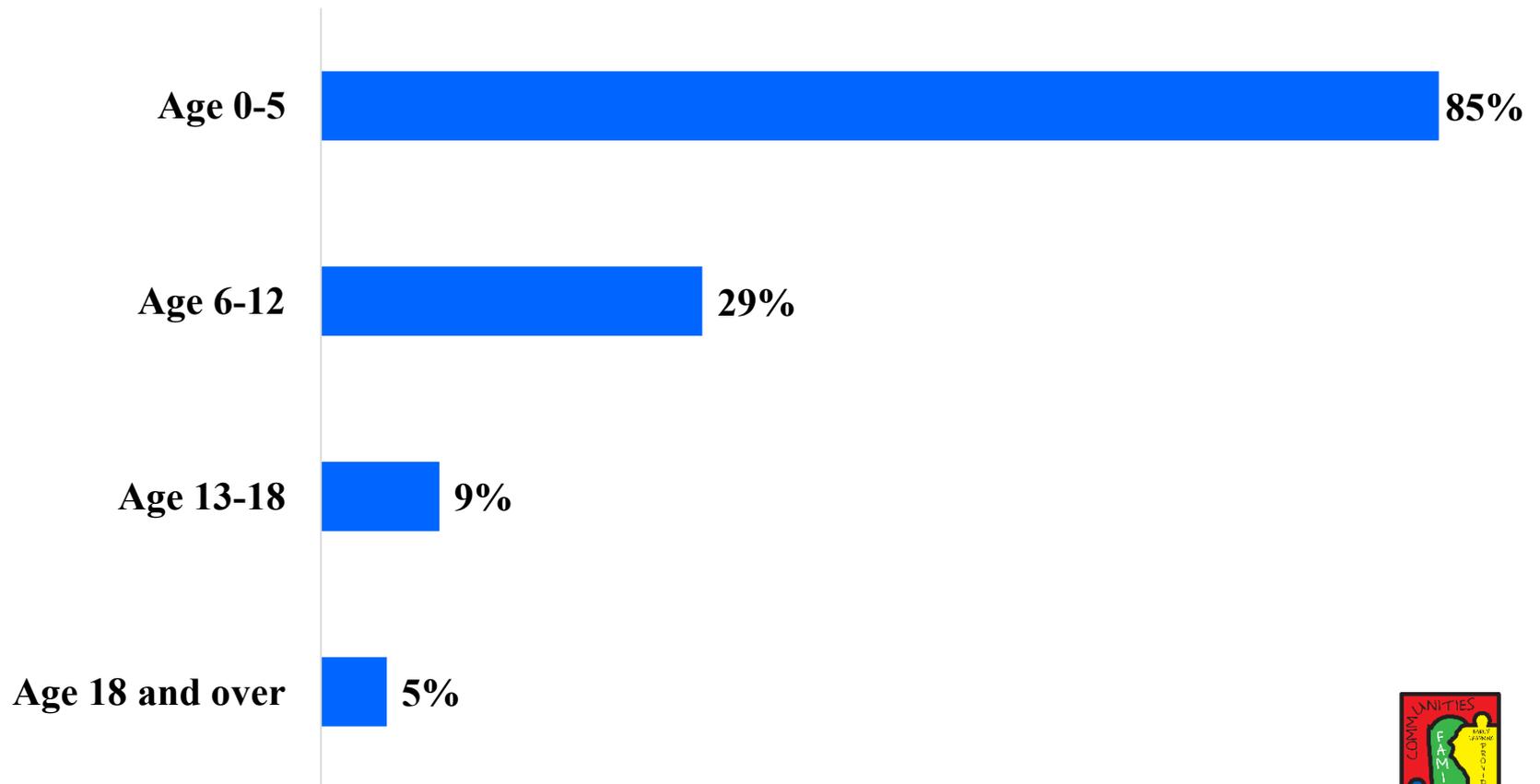
# **Universal Pre-K Parent Survey Results**

# Survey Overview

- Administered to 500+ Delaware parents during January and February of 2019
- Sought parents opinions and experiences with universal pre-K in Delaware.
- High-quality pre-K is linked to fuller, richer lives for students and their parents. Delaware ranks 35th in nation in pre-K access, and 43rd when you add Head Start and special education.
- Three- and four-year-olds in Delaware attend a variety of pre-K offerings, if they attend at all. Some providers are funded through the state, some through private funding, while others receive a mix of both.
- Many other states offer free, public pre-K with more uniform, higher standards.

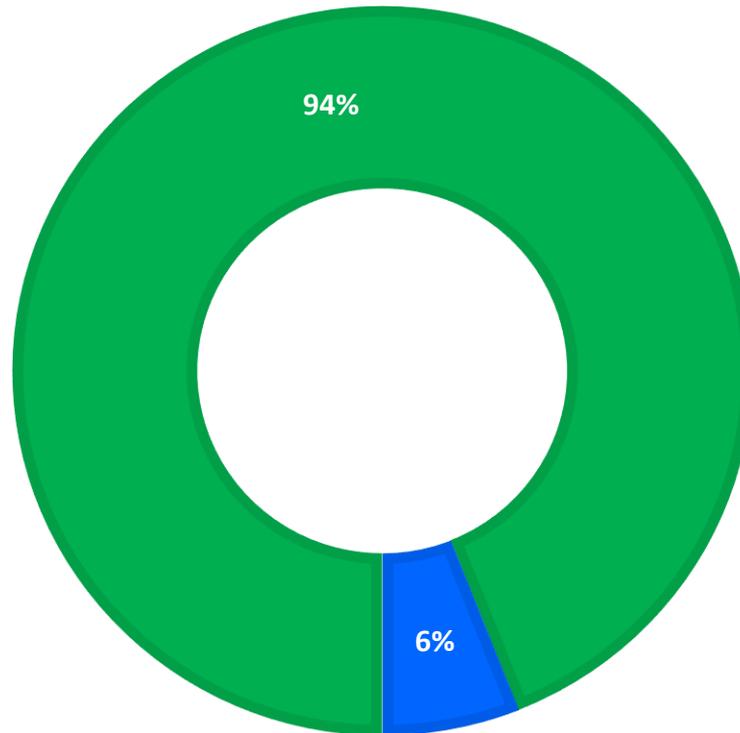


# 85% of respondents have one or more children age five or under

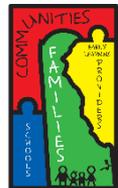


# 94% of Delaware parents\* agree the state should make free, public pre-K available for all three- and four-year-olds

■ Strongly Agree or Agree   ■ Did not agree



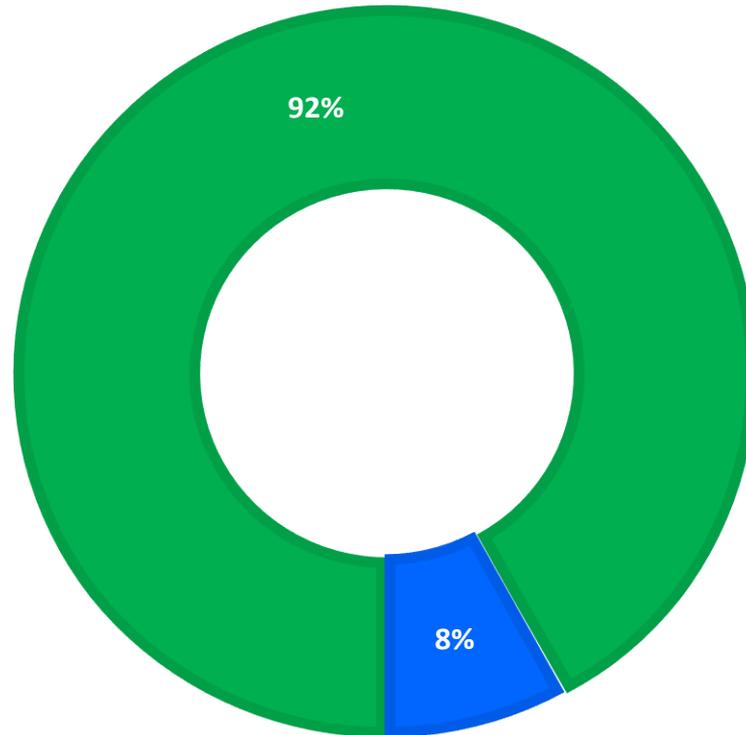
\*Parents with children age 0-5.



DELAWARE READINESS TEAMS

# 92% of parents\* would take advantage of voluntary, full day, high-quality pre-K

■ Would take advantage of universal pre-K    ■ Would not/not applicable



\*Parents with children age 0-5.



# Voluntary, full day, high-quality universal pre-K would help families financially

Universal pre-K doesn't solve for *all* of a family's childcare needs such as before- and after-care, or summertime care. But it could reduce financial burdens for many families.

Overall childcare is considered "affordable" if it costs no more than 10% of a family's income. Yet a typical family in Delaware **would have to spend 27.5% (more than \$19,000) of their income on child care for an infant and a four-year-old.**

<b><u>WITHOUT</u> voluntary, full day, high quality universal pre-K</b>	<b><u>WITH</u> voluntary, full day, high-quality universal pre-K</b>
<p><b>43% of families experience financial hardship</b></p> <p><i>Parents say:</i></p> <p><i>“We are not able to move into a larger house to fit our family size because our childcare currently is the cost of a 2nd mortgage.”</i></p> <p><i>“The cost of full-day childcare has prevented my partner and me from having another child because paying for one is on the brink of causing financial hardship.”</i></p>	<p><i>Parents say:</i></p> <p><i>“If I was able to enroll my child, the cost of daycare would dramatically decrease and I would be able to use the extra money for extra-curricular activities for my son.”</i></p> <p><i>With a free pre-k program, my family would be able to save more money so that we can relocate to a home in a more desirable area.”</i></p>

# Voluntary, full day, high-quality universal pre-K would help parents

Every year, U.S. families lose out on \$8.3 billion in wages due to lack of childcare.

<b><u>WITHOUT</u> voluntary, full day, high quality universal pre-K</b>	<b><u>WITH</u> voluntary, full day, high-quality universal pre-K</b>
<p data-bbox="208 651 913 768"><b>Nearly one third of parents say they, a partner, and/or a family member has been limited in furthering their career training or education</b></p> <p data-bbox="471 818 645 848"><i>Parents say:</i></p> <p data-bbox="204 898 923 975"><i>“It's too expensive to send them [to preschool], so I quit my full-time job to stay home.”</i></p> <p data-bbox="179 1025 942 1260"><i>“I have been unable to return to work or start my business because quality childcare is so expensive. If there was affordable part or full time care available, I would be able to start a business, make more money for my family, save more money, and contribute to the economy.”</i></p>	<p data-bbox="993 651 1769 768"><b>55% of parents say they or their partner could get a job, expand to full time employment, go back to school, and/or get more career training</b></p> <p data-bbox="1290 818 1464 848"><i>Parents say:</i></p> <p data-bbox="989 898 1773 975"><i>“Universal pre-K would make it possible for me to work and go back to school.”</i></p> <p data-bbox="1020 1025 1746 1096"><i>“My husband would be able to go back to college to obtain his RN.”</i></p> <p data-bbox="996 1146 1769 1218"><i>“Having a pre-k program would positively increase life because I would be able to pursue career.”</i></p>

\*Parents with children age 0-5.

# Voluntary, full day, high-quality universal pre-K would help children

## WITHOUT voluntary, full day, high quality universal pre-K

**One third to one half of students are not entering kindergarten with skills needed for success**

*Parents say:*

*“I am not able to send my child to the best program with the most robust curriculum.”*

*“In a high quality, play based pre-k program my daughter would learn the social/emotional skills necessary for success.”*

*“I feel my child may be behind other children because I cannot afford the high cost of pre-k.”*

## WITH voluntary, full day, high-quality universal pre-K

**44% of parents say their children would have access to academic and social skills before kindergarten**

*Parents say:*

*“Students who have not had access to pre-K and are not read to/helped at home struggle and still struggle as they get to me in 6th grade.”*

*“Enrolling my child in a pre-K program would help them develop learning and social skills.”*

A group of diverse young children, including girls and boys of various ethnicities, are sitting around a white table in a classroom. They are engaged in an activity, possibly drawing or coloring, with some holding markers or crayons. The children are wearing colorful clothing, and the background shows a typical classroom setting with a whiteboard and other furniture.

**For more information about  
universal pre-K in  
Delaware, visit  
[www.firststateprek.com](http://www.firststateprek.com)**