



Fast Facts about Preschool for All

Spring 2024

PFA is Meeting its Slot Goals and Those Slots are in Demand

- 96% of PFA slots are enrolled.
- We've created over 500 new slots and are offering just under 1,400 PFA slots in the community this year.
- In the fall of 2024, there will be more than 2,000 PFA slots!
- We've exceeded our slot goals in our first two years, and are on track for universal preschool access by 2030.

Our Preschool Options are Working for Families

- 76% of children were able to enroll in their family's first-choice program.
- 93% of children were able to enroll in one of their top three choices.
- 63% of programs offer a 10-hour preschool day for families.

We're Reaching our Priority Populations

- While PFA grows, we are prioritizing children who currently have the least access to preschool.
- 22% of children enrolled have developmental delays or disabilities.
- 89% of enrolled families have incomes at or below the self-sufficiency standard, which is approximately \$105,000 per year for a family of four.
- 73% of enrolled children identify as Black, Indigenous, or Children of Color.
- 38% of enrolled children speak a language other than English at home with 44 different languages represented across PFA classrooms.

We're Creating the Mixed Delivery System our Community Needs

- We have successfully established a mixed delivery system that includes schools, community-based organizations, center-based preschools, and preschool in family child care settings.

- A mixed delivery system enables families to choose a preschool that reflects their culture, communicates in their language, and meets their scheduling needs.
- Public preschool expansion can have negative impacts on the supply of infant and toddler care. Mixed delivery systems support continuity of care for young children and protect infant and toddler slots.
- There are 52 PFA providers at 82 locations around the county. Next year it will grow to over 75 providers at more than 100 locations!

Stable PFA Funding Benefits Providers and Grows Capacity

- 20% of our Year 1 providers expanded into a new facility for Year 2. Stable PFA funding made this growth possible.
- The Spring 2024 public launch of the PFA Facilities Fund will provide technical assistance as well as grants and loans to all provider types, accelerating slot growth.
- We've earmarked \$16 million in FY24 to fund new construction and renovations!

We're Supporting Small, Culturally Diverse Businesses

- This preschool year, over 70% of our small center and family child care sites have owners or directors that identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

PFA is Stabilizing and Growing the Early Childhood Workforce

- PFA wage requirements are significantly higher than the state average. The median hourly wage for a child care worker in Oregon is \$16.20, which is less than \$32,400 per year. By comparison, the minimum wage for a teacher assistant at a PFA site is \$20.91, and the target salary for a lead teacher with a BA or Step 10 is \$37.48.
- Because of wage increases, early childhood education is being recognized as a viable career choice for the first time by regional workforce development organizations.
- We're investing in college navigators, scholarship programs, coaching, and professional development opportunities to recruit, retain, and support educators in the field.

Our Inclusion Work Supports Providers and Prevents Preschool Suspension and Expulsion

- In order to support inclusion, each Pilot Site is matched with a Coach who focuses on foundational early learning strategies and supportive classroom environments, as well as an Inclusion Coordinator who can offer guidance, help with resource referrals, and coordinate supports.
- Preschool for All providers have access to additional funding to hire extra staff or purchase materials that will support children with disabilities.
- PFA funds an Early Childhood Mental Health team at the County Health Department that helps providers with classroom interventions, social and emotional learning, and mental health referrals.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for Preschool for All?

All children who are three or four years old on or before September first, and who have at least one parent or legal guardian residing in Multnomah County, are eligible to apply for a PFA slot. **There are no income requirements.**

How do I apply for a slot?

Families can apply online through the application portal at <https://pfa.multco.us/> or reach out to a Family Navigator for help with their application. Find more information at: <https://tinyurl.com/Outreach-Flyer-PFA>.

What is the PFA tax and who pays it?

PFA is funded by a personal income tax of 1.5% on taxable income over \$125,000 for individuals and \$200,000 for joint filers, and an additional 1.5% on taxable income over \$250,000 for individuals and \$400,000 for joint filers. It is a marginal tax – only the income above those levels is taxed. **Less than 10% of tax filers in Multnomah County are expected to meet the income threshold to pay the PFA tax.**

Why is the program collecting more money than it's spending?

Preschool for All matches revenues and expenditures over time to plan for the entire implementation of the program, rather than matching revenue to expenses one year at a time. As the number of preschool slots increases, the yearly revenue will not keep up with the anticipated expenses. Dedicated savings that accumulate in the early years will all be needed in the later years as the program grows to full universality. This strategy has always been part of the plan.

Preschool for All has strong fiscal stability strategies and financial modeling to ensure that it can meet its long-term commitment to voters and the children and families of Multnomah County.

Why don't we give school districts the money and let them do this?

School districts are an essential part of Preschool for All's mixed delivery system, but they can't and shouldn't do it all. School districts only offer six hours of programming per day and no care

during the summer. That schedule doesn't meet the needs of most working families. In addition, many families, especially from communities of color, don't feel ready to drop their three- and four-year-olds off in traditional school classrooms. A mixed delivery system offering preschool in a variety of settings allows families to choose the type of preschool experience that works for them.

Is Preschool for All on track?

Yes! The goal has always been to reach universal preschool access by 2030, so that every interested family can have a public preschool slot, and PFA is on track to do that.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a huge impact on the child care field, and there are still 20% fewer providers than there were in 2019. To reflect this new reality, PFA made adjustments in 2022 to the yearly slot creation goals. Preschool for All exceeded those goals in the first two years, will exceed the year 3 goal, and is on track for universal preschool access by 2030.

Please visit <https://www.multco.us/preschool/implementation-budget-update> for more info about PFA implementation.