

## Additional Programs Serving Young Children

### OPAT

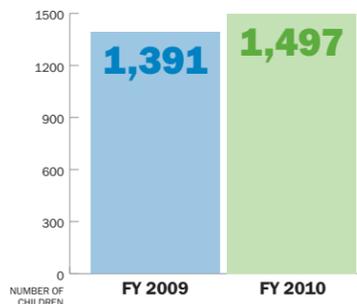
Oklahoma Parents as Teachers (OPAT) is a home visitation program for families with children birth through aged three that is operated by the local school district. The first year of funding for OPAT was 1992 with a funding amount of \$600,000. The table below shows the last three years of funding as well as the number of districts and the number of families served.

Year	Funding Level	Number of Districts	Families Served
2009-10	2,045,709	90	4,573
2008-09	2,045,709	96	4,388
2007-08	2,045,709	98	4,657
2006-07	2,045,709	97	5,117

### Early Childhood Pilot Program

The Early Childhood Pilot Program provides comprehensive, full-day, full-year services for at-risk

#### Children Served in Early Childhood Pilot Program



children aged zero to four. Ten million dollars in state funds have been appropriated by the legislature and is matched by fifteen million dollars from the private sector. State regulations require the employment of bachelor-degreed, certified teachers and family support workers for all enrolled children.

### Three-Year-Old Public School Classrooms

While not a state-funded program, 148 elementary level sites in 110 Oklahoma public school districts provide a classroom program for three-year-old children. 922 of these students are enrolled in a half-day program, and 1,269 three-year-old students are enrolled in a full-day program.

### SoonerStart

SoonerStart is Oklahoma's early intervention program designed to meet the needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental



delays. The program is a joint effort of the Oklahoma Departments of Education, Health, Human Services, Mental Health Services, the Commission on Children and Youth, and the Oklahoma

Health Care Authority. Infants and toddlers through 36 months of age who have developmental delays or have a physical or a mental condition (such as Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, Autism) that will most likely cause a developmental delay are eligible for SoonerStart services. There is no direct cost to families for these services, regardless of their income. This program is mandated by federal and state law and is funded through various state and federal sources.



**Janet Barresi**  
State Superintendent  
of Public Instruction  
405-521-3301

**Erin Gray Nation**  
Early Childhood  
Education Coordinator  
405-521-3346

It is the policy of the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in its programs or employment practices as required by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Civil rights compliance inquiries related to the OSDE may be directed to the Affirmative Action Officer, Room 111, 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599, telephone number (405) 522-4930; or, the United States Department of Education's Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. Inquiries or concerns regarding compliance with Title IX by local school districts should be presented to the local school district Title IX coordinator. This publication, printed by the State Department of Education Printing Services, is issued by the Oklahoma State Department of Education as authorized by 70 O.S. § 3-104. One Thousand copies have been prepared at a cost of \$420. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. APRIL 2011.

# OKLAHOMA EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

2011 State Report

Janet Barresi, State Superintendent of Public Instruction • Oklahoma State Department of Education



**98%** of Oklahoma school districts are offering Pre-Kindergarten programs through the public schools, allowing 38,441 four-year-olds to be served.

### Oklahoma's Early Childhood Program is #1 in the nation!

Oklahoma's Pre-Kindergarten provides:

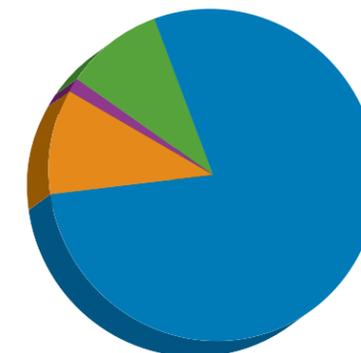
- Half-day/full-day option
- Voluntary participation
- A bachelor-degreed, early childhood-certified teacher
- Adult/child ratio of 1:10
- Increased readiness for reading and academic learning (Georgetown Study, 2003-2004)
- Easy transition to Kindergarten
- Curriculum appropriate for age development

### Public School/Community Collaborations

Over 39% of Oklahoma public school districts reported they collaborate with an outside organization within the community for their Pre-Kindergarten programs. Some of the benefits of collaboration include:

- Provides equity for all children: regardless of the setting, all children are receiving a certified teacher and curriculum.
- Maximizes existing resources, including space, equipment, and services.
- Increases quality in child-care setting and promotes a program parents trust.
- Promotes an earlier and stronger partnership with the school district, community, and families.

### Sites in Collaboration with Public Schools



- Head Start Centers **166**
- Child Care Centers **22**
- Faith-Based Facilities **3**
- Other **20**

Other includes Tribal Early Childhood Centers, Universities, Vocational/Technical schools, YMCA locations, assisted living centers, corporate business offices, and other facilities within the community.

### Pre-Kindergarten in 2010-11

#### Number of Children Enrolled

- Half-day – 14,674
- Full-day – 23,767
- Total Enrollment – 38,441

#### Percentage of Districts Offering Programs

- 98%

#### Staff

- Early childhood-certified teacher with:
  - Bachelor’s degree
  - State teacher salary/fringe benefits
- Assistant teacher

#### Funding

- Local
- 0.7: Half-day weight
- 1.3: Full-day weight

Pre-Kindergarten funding to Oklahoma’s public schools comes from multiple sources, including the State Aid Formula. Other sources of revenue which may impact Pre-Kindergarten classes, as they do any other grade level:

- Federal
  - Child Nutrition Program
  - Special Education
  - Title I
  - Bilingual Education
- State
  - Staff Development
  - Local and County Revenue
  - Textbooks

#### Class Size

- Adult/Child ratio 1:10
- Maximum class size of 20



### Kindergarten in 2010-11

#### Number of Children Enrolled

- Half-day – 3,853
- Full-day – 48,259
- Total Enrollment – 52,112

#### Staff

- Early childhood-certified teacher with:
  - Bachelor’s degree
  - State teacher salary/fringe benefits

#### Funding

- 1.3: Half-day weight
- 1.5: Full-day weight

#### Class Size

- Adult/Child ratio 1:20
- Maximum class size of 20
  - Up to 29 with an assistant teacher



### Standards

The early childhood curriculum *Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS)* standards are designed to attend to the needs and individual differences among children. Through themes of interest, all areas of the standards are integrated. Students experience an active learning environment arranged in learning centers which include art, science, reading, dramatic play, blocks, technology, and math.

By the 2011-12 school year, all Oklahoma districts must offer full-day Kindergarten.

(Kindergarten is only mandated half-day; full-day is offered for families who wish to participate.)

A balance between teacher-directed and child-initiated experiences allow for both large group and small group play. Research indicates that children who play learn to regulate their own emotions and ideas, take more initiative, engage in higher-level thinking, and develop an understanding of symbolic relationships that are a precursor to reading and mathematical thinking.

Around 75% of Oklahoma’s four-year-olds attend public school Pre-Kindergarten.

“Universal Pre-Kindergarten has significant effects on the academic readiness of Oklahoma’s public school four-year-olds.”

– The Effects of Oklahoma’s Pre-K Program on Young Children’s School Readiness, National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)\*



“All children benefit from Oklahoma’s public school Pre-Kindergarten regardless of socioeconomic status or ethnic background.”

– The Effects of Universal Pre-K on Cognitive Development, Georgetown University

## History of Oklahoma Pre-Kindergarten

### 1975

- Legislation mandated for all schools to provide half-day Kindergarten for children aged 5 on or before September 1. All early childhood teachers were required to be bachelor-degreed and certified in either early childhood education or elementary education.

### 1980

- *State Funded Grant Program* for students aged 4 on or before September 1. Ten school districts participated.
  - Rules for Pre-K were developed in coordination with child care and Head Start.

### 1990

- *Education Reform Act of 1990*:
  - Mandated attendance for half-day Kindergarten programs.
  - Moved funds from state grants into the State Aid Formula, providing funding for those students who met Head Start income eligibility guidelines. Other students were served on a sliding-scale tuition basis.
  - All early childhood teachers were required to be bachelor-degreed and certified specifically in early childhood education.

### 1993

- The *Kindergarten Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS)* were published.
- *Oklahoma Parents as Teachers* was established with limited state funding.

### 1995

- *Pre-Kindergarten PASS* established.
- *House Bill 1657* provided state funding for all four-year-old children aged 4 on or before September 1 regardless of income for voluntary Pre-K programs.

### 1998

- All 4-year-olds are eligible to attend school when Pre-K funding moved into the State Aid Formula. Pre-K is now funded as a grade-level.
- Attendance is voluntary.

### 2003

- The first *Georgetown Research Study* of Universal Pre-Kindergarten in Oklahoma showed significant impact of Pre-K on the language development of young children. *Oklahoma’s Public School Pre-Kindergarten* program cited as number one in the nation in terms of access by NIEER\*.

### 2005

- In December of 2005, NIEER\* released its results of Oklahoma’s Pre-Kindergarten program, confirming the findings of Georgetown University.
  - *Senate Bill 982* required districts to offer full-day Kindergarten by the 2011-12 school year. Mandatory attendance for half-day Kindergarten.
  - The state legislature appropriated ten million dollars to match twenty million in private funding in state funds for *The Early Childhood Pilot Program* private-public partnership which will serve at-risk children aged birth to four.
  - Mandatory attendance for only half-day Kindergarten.