



Push to Pre-K: Head Start Information Session

Division of Early Childhood

October 2, 2024

PRESENTED BY

Dr. Nykia Washington, Prekindergarten and Mixed Delivery Program Manager



Presentation Outline

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Prekindergarten Expansion Grant
4. Question & Answer



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Introduction

Office of Early Learning and Instruction is responsible for pre-k and kindergarten policy and programs.

People & Purpose

Dr. Nykia Washington, Prekindergarten and Mixed Delivery Program Manager

Dr. Nakeisha Savage, Director, Early Learning and Instruction

Purpose:

MSDE launched Push to Pre-K, to increase awareness of and provide accurate information about Pre-K grant opportunities, financial benefits, and program requirements.

Push to Pre-K includes a series of technical assistance sessions strategically scheduled leading up to the release of grant opportunities. Our goal is to build capacity for Family Child Care providers and provide them with the resources they need to successfully navigate the application process.



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Background

Blueprint for Maryland and the Mixed-Delivery System

Blueprint for Maryland's Future

The Blueprint granted all three- and four-year-old children from families earning incomes at or below 300% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) access to high-quality full-day Pre-K at no cost.

- Students with special education needs, students experiencing homelessness, and students with a home language other than English are eligible regardless of income.

Note: In 2024, 300% of the federal poverty level is \$45,180 for a household of one, \$61,320 for a household of two, and \$77,460 for a household of three. For each person over eight in a household, \$5,380 is added to the 2024 FPL.

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/7240229f28375f54435c5b83a3764cd1/detailed-guidelines-2024.pdf>

Mixed Delivery System

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future aims to increase the number of three- and four-year-old children enrolled in full-day, high-quality Pre-K by growing the capacity of public schools and private providers. Known as the Pre-K Mixed Delivery System, it allows public and private providers to work together to offer high-quality Pre-K education. This system gives families the choice to select the best program for their children, whether it is a public or private provider.

The mixed delivery system involves:

- public schools
- private providers:
 - child care centers
 - family child care homes
 - Head Start programs
 - Montessori schools
 - faith-based providers



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Prekindergarten Expansion Grant

Prekindergarten Expansion Grant

The Prekindergarten Expansion Grant is a competitive grant program administered by the Division of Early Childhood at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

These grants provide funding for local education agencies (LEAs) and private providers to administer high-quality prekindergarten and school readiness services throughout the State for children and their families in alignment with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Grant Basics

Funding: \$14,473 per slot

Number of Pre-K instruction days: 180

Number of instruction hours daily: 6.5 hour

Number of slots: Based upon your licensed capacity

Eligibility

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and private providers (including, Head Start, Center Based, and Family Child Care programs) who:

- hold a valid license.
- have not incurred any serious health or safety violations.
- participate in Maryland EXCELS and published at Level 3 with a plan to achieve Level 5 within five years.



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Question & Answer

More Information

Find more information about Push to Pre-K and Pre-K Grants:

- Online: <https://pushtoprek.com>
- Online: <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/maryland-pre-k-grant-programs>
- Email: prekexpansiongrant.msde@maryland.gov