



# Push to Pre-K: Grant Introduction and Information Session FY2027

**Division of Early Childhood**

September 23, 2025

**PRESENTED BY**

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Dr. Nykia Washington, Prekindergarten and Mixed Delivery Program Manager



## Presentation Outline

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



## 1. Introduction

## 2. Background

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## 4. Question & Answer

# 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's Future 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.

## Mixed Delivery System for 2026-27 School Year

The mixed delivery system includes:

- 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 Overview

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

FY 27 Funding: xx,xxx 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.

## Application (1 of 2)

- **Extent of Need:** Describe how funds are needed to increase access to high-quality prekindergarten educational programming and school readiness services.
- **Evidence of Impact:** Describe how the proposed plan will lead to the desired goal(s).
- **Goals and Outcomes:** Identify clear goals and objectives that their program will achieve at the end of the grant period. The specific goals and objectives should align with readiness for kindergarten curriculum and instruction.
- **Staffing, Management Plan, and Key Personnel:** List all administrative key personnel responsible for successful grant implementation and monitoring and provide resumes.
  - **Staffing and Site Selection:** Identify program location(s), the teaching team that will deliver the instructional program, and the number of slots.
- **Maryland EXCELS and Accreditation:** Complete table with program status and the EXCELS plan.



## Application (2 of 2)

- **Plan of Operation/Proposed Plan:** Identify how the program will accomplish its goals and expand access to high-quality Pre-K for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds.
- **Evaluation and Dissemination:** Describe how the program will be evaluated to ensure continuous quality improvement.
- **Collaboration and Sustainability:** List collaborating community and business partners and describe their roles along with a long-term plan for sustainability.
- **Project Timeline/Implementation Plan:** Provide a timeline for key activities that will take place during the entire grant period.
- **Budget and Budget Narrative:** Provide a detailed description of the requested funds that will be spent by the designated categories.
- **Appendices:** Supporting documents.



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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](mailto:prekexpansiongrant.msde@maryland.gov)

## Future Sessions

- October 1, 2025 – Licensing & Maryland EXCELS Requirements [Recording] [Presentation]
- October 15, 2025 – Components of an Educational Program: Defining High-Quality Pre-K
- October 28, 2025 – Grant Writing (Goals and Outcomes)
- November 5, 2025 – Family Child Care Homes (Evening) 6:00 pm
- November 5, 2025 – Head Start Programs
- November 19, 2025 – Child Care Centers (Evening) 6:00 pm
- November 19, 2025 – Faith-based Programs
- December 4, 2025 – Spanish (Evening) 6:00 pm
- December 9, 2025 – Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS®)
- December 10, 2025 – Fiscal Overview (allowable expenses, capital improvements, indirect expenses)