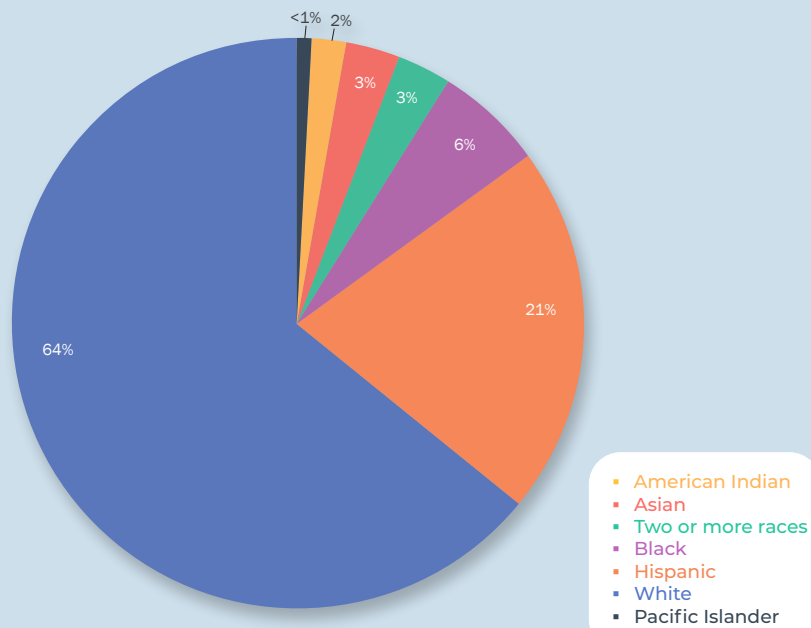


EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

SNAPSHOTS OF QUALITY OUTCOMES IN DISTRICT OPERATED PROGRAMS | 2020-21



DEMOGRAPHICS



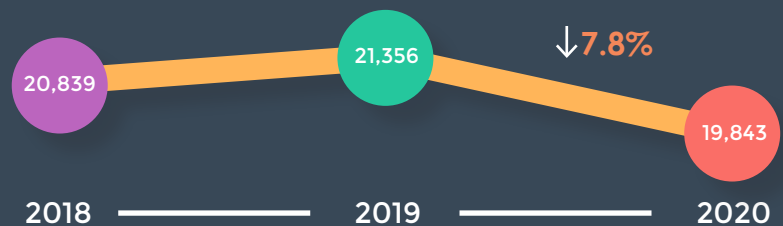
Nebraska children have access to a variety of early childhood programs, including school district-operated programs, Head Start, and licensed child care facilities.

Regardless of where these children attend early childhood programs, high quality is an important attribute in order to have positive impacts on the child's future. Many of Nebraska's public schools operate early childhood programs, which have higher requirements than those of licensed providers.

This report highlights Nebraska's public school district and Education Service Unit programs by sharing demographic and outcome data for the students being served, as well as the challenges that the 2020-21 school year brought and how programs faced that adversity.

ENROLLMENT

The 2020-21 school year was the first time Nebraska districts saw a dip in PreK enrollment. National data shows a **17%** decline in state-funded PreK enrollment from pre-pandemic.



REMOTE LEARNING

Due to COVID-19 concerns and quarantine requirements, districts implemented many procedures to ensure that instruction was still available to children, including remote learning. Remote learning included digital support, virtual participation, providing manipulatives and paper-based materials as well as meals, and access to pre-recorded videos.



A COVID-19 response survey was sent out to **223** districts operating PreK programs — we received **140** responses.

1

District reported a PreK closure lasting 10 days.



14

Districts utilized some sort of remote learning for less than 4% of PreK students.



100%

Provided in-person learning including virtual family engagement & increased cleaning.



Prekindergarten programs in school districts include center-based, home-based, and/or special education services for children with IEPs or IFSPs from birth to five.

CHILD OUTCOMES

Nebraska public school district programs and many Head Start programs utilize MyTeachingStrategies GOLD™ to assess children across six developmental areas through widely held expectations. The widely held expectations frame the expected growth of a typically developing children. As children are assessed through observation, teachers use the data from the assessment to construct intentional and authentic learning opportunities to support the development of each child.

 Students meeting expectations had the greatest gains in the areas of cognitive, literacy and math learning during the 2020-21 school year.



Ways Teachers Promoted Cognitive Learning...

- » Provided puzzles with varying degrees of difficulty
- » Encouraged pretend play with various materials

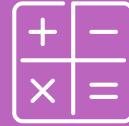
↑ **48%**



Ways Teachers Promoted Literacy Learning...

- » Provided a reading area with a variety of texts including fiction and non-fiction and read both formally and informally
- » Provided various writing utensils and materials to experiment with writing and drawing

↑ **63%**



Ways Teachers Promoted Math Learning...

- » Provided a variety of materials to help children develop an understanding of quantity
- » Provided a block area with varying shapes and sizes of blocks to build spatial awareness and practice math talk

↑ **70%**

PARTNERSHIPS

Prekindergarten programs within school districts are able to better meet the needs of their community through partnerships with other programs and initiatives. All school districts are required to provide Special Education services for families with children who have developmental delays and/or health care needs starting at birth in order to connect families to needed services. School districts are expanding partnerships in early childhood to meet the needs of all children that are being served. These partnerships range from implementation of programming to aiding in transitions.



58% of districts utilize a kindergarten transition agreement with local Head Starts and/or child care programs to support incoming kindergarten students

25% of districts report a Head Start/Early Head Start partnership for prekindergarten-age students

17% of districts operate a Sixpence program for infants/toddlers

Program Outcome observation assessments were not conducted on a large scale due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn more at bit.ly/ECEStateReport