

2025-26 Pre-K for PA Fact Sheet and Map Data Sources and Methodology

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

Source

- Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census (district)
U.S. Census Bureau, 'Population Estimates by Single Year of Age and Sex', Population and Housing Unit Estimates, Vintage 2024 (state, county)
- Poverty: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (B17024) (2024 1-Year Estimates: state, 2020-2024 5-Year Estimates: county, district)
- Enrollment: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Data Quality (2024-25 private academic nursery schools (accessed 2/5/2026), school district administration (accessed 2/24/2026))
Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Human Services, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (distinct enrollment in Child Care Works at a Keystone STARS 3-4 location, Pre-K Counts, Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program, and/or school district pre-kindergarten on October 31, 2025, by geography, and listing of pre-k providers, received 1/9/2026)
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start and Pennsylvania Head Start grantees (2026 federal preschool Head Start funded slots/enrollment by location, collected 1/16/2026-3/6/2026)
City of Philadelphia, Mayor's Office of Children and Families (2025-26 PHLpreK funded slots by location, received 3/4/2026)
- Geocoding: <https://www.google.com/maps>
- Map boundary: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation via Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (2026)
- Salary: Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Center for Workforce Information & Analysis, 2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) (accessed 2/18/2026)

Methodology

Estimates of the number of eligible children ages three and four were derived by multiplying the percent of children under six years living in families with incomes below 300 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, by the count of children ages three and four years in the population dataset noted above. This was completed for the state legislative districts, school districts and counties.

The files containing the providers were combined. Each provider was identified by program type(s)/funding stream(s) to separate into high-quality, publicly funded (HQPF) programs and eligible providers not receiving public funds for pre-kindergarten. Out-of-state providers and child care providers not serving children in Child Care Works (CCW) and not at a Keystone STAR 3 or 4 level were removed from the dataset. Unique identifiers were applied to each provider's address. Addresses using a post office box were researched and replaced with the street address of the physical provider location. Latitude and longitude coordinates were manually researched using Google Maps based on the provider's physical location.

Federal-funded preschool Head Start enrollment data and PHLpreK funded slots were aggregated by geography and combined with the distinct enrollment file already aggregated by county, legislative district and school district. HQPF enrollment includes the unduplicated count of children ages 3-4 in Pre-K Counts (PKC), Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP) and children participating in CCW at a Keystone STAR 3-4 center or group, federal preschool Head Start, school district pre-kindergarten and PHLpreK.

Using the eligibility and aggregated enrollment data, estimates for unmet need, percent of eligible population served, percent unserved and the number of additional staff needed were calculated for each geography. Note: the additional educators needed assumes 10 children per staff person and was calculated by dividing the unmet need by 10. It does not take into consideration whether the estimated enrollment of current classrooms is full. For example, if a district currently serves 52 children and 8 more children are eligible, the calculation for additional staff needed is 1 even though the 8 children could be added to an existing classroom.

Eligible pre-k provider locations were imported into ArcGIS Pro and added as a map layer by their eligibility type. This includes federal- and state-funded Head Start, Keystone STAR 3-4 centers and groups that serve preschool-age children, licensed nursery schools, and school districts. Another layer was created based on public funding sources. This includes federal- and state-funded Head Start, Keystone STAR 3-4 centers and groups that serve preschool-age children through the CCW subsidy program, PKC providers, school districts with pre-k enrollment and high-quality PHLpreK providers.

Using ArcGIS, district and county poverty and enrollment tables were joined to boundary layers. Spatial joins were performed using the provider layers and district/county boundaries to calculate the number of eligible (including publicly funded) physical locations in each geography.

All data was imported into ArcGIS Online to create the interactive mapping application.