

The Prepare All Kids Act

The Prepare All Kids Act ([S. 839](#), [H.R. 2184](#)), which was introduced in the Senate on April 21, 2009 by Senator Robert Casey (D – PA), and in the House on April 30, 2009 by Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (D – NY), would provide federal funding to states to support at least one year of voluntary high-quality prekindergarten for children, with a focus on children from low-income families and children with special needs. The bill is largely similar to a bill that Senator Casey introduced in 2007.

- The bill would create a Prekindergarten Incentive Fund, administered by the Department of Education. States would receive grant allotments from the fund, and would then provide subgrants to qualified prekindergarten providers, including Head Start agencies, child care providers, schools, and for-profit or nonprofit organizations; at least 25 percent of providers receiving subgrants in a state would have to be community-based providers.
- Programs receiving funding to provide prekindergarten would be required to:
 - Use a research-based curriculum that supports children’s cognitive, social, emotional and physical development and individual learning styles.
 - Have a class size of no more than 20 children with no more than 10 children per teacher.
 - Have teachers who have bachelor’s degrees with specialization in early childhood, or who will obtain them within six years.
 - Involve and support parents.
- States would be required to:
 - Set aside at least 15 percent of their funds for programs serving infants and toddlers.
 - Set aside at least 10 percent of their funds for extending programs to full-day and year-round to meet the needs of working parents.
 - Coordinate their prekindergarten programs with other early childhood programs.
 - Monitor their prekindergarten programs.
 - Support professional development opportunities for teachers and teacher aides.