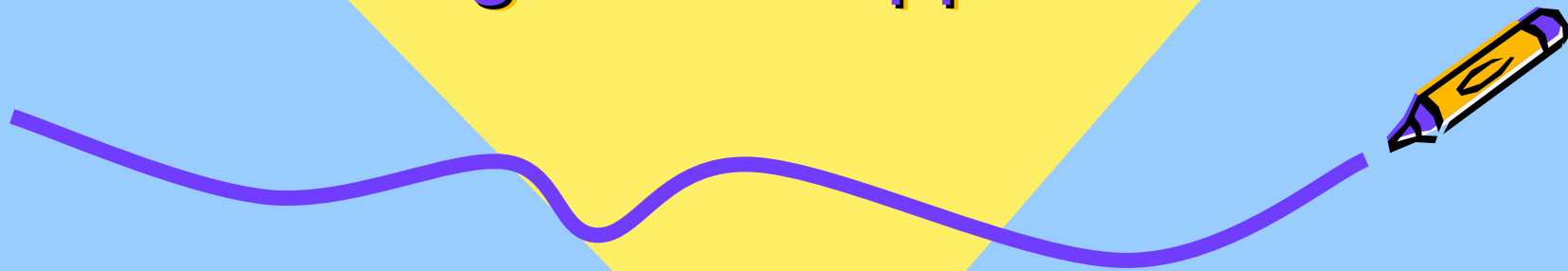
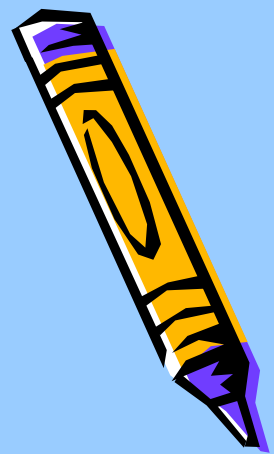


Providing State PreKindergarten Programs in Child Care Settings: Challenges and Opportunities



National Women's Law Center

PreKindergarten Investments Are Increasing

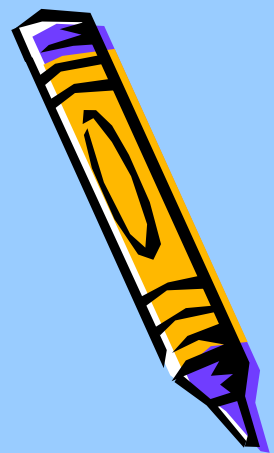


- 39 states invest in prekindergarten.
- Approximately one-quarter of state preK children are served in settings outside the public schools.
- Allowing child care centers to offer preK has several benefits:
 - Full-day care for working parents.
 - Space when schools are crowded.
 - Preschoolers and their younger siblings can be served at the same location.
- A number of state policies and local practices can determine whether child care centers successfully participate in preK.

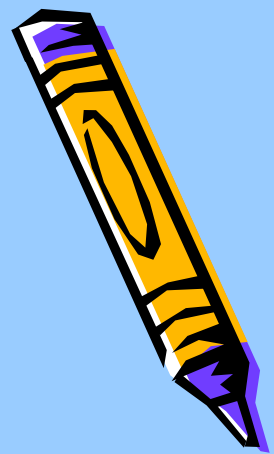


Financing

- Do states have a set-aside for community based programs?
- Where do programs apply for funding?
- Is there a standard or negotiated amount per child?
- Is the amount sufficient?
- Are there match requirements?
- Is there funding for administration, transportation, facilities, supplies, or start-up costs?



Parent Payments



- Do state funds replace or supplement parent fees for preK?
- Who pays for child care before and/or after the preK day when families need full-day care?
 - Does the state provide full-day reimbursement for wrap-around child care?
 - What happens when children enrolled in preK lose their child care subsidies?

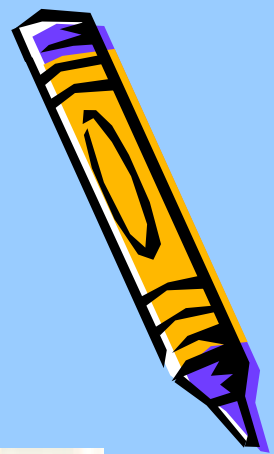


Qualifications and Compensation for Teachers and Other Staff

- Is there flexibility/time for teachers to meet education requirements?
- Is there financial support?
- Can teachers getting their degrees fulfill student-teaching requirements in a child care setting?
- Do teachers in child care settings receive compensation that is comparable with that of public school teachers?



Relationships between PreK Teachers and Other Staff



- Do preK teachers with degrees have the same experience working with young children and ability to respond to children's social-emotional needs as child care teachers?
- What are the education qualifications for directors, and how do these compare with teachers' qualifications?
- Do directors have opportunities to receive training in running a preK program?



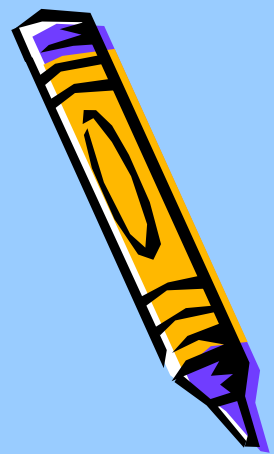
Ongoing Training for Teachers



- Is school-sponsored training available to preK teachers from child care settings?
- Are grants for substitutes available?
- Is training available to other teachers in the center? In the community?
- Who pays for ongoing training for preK teachers?



Relationship with School District



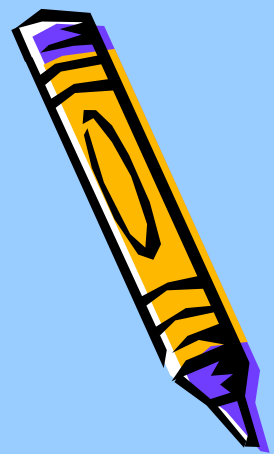
- Who allocates slots?
- What is the enrollment process for parents?
- Who makes decisions about hiring and firing teachers?
- Why do some parents choose schools over child care centers?



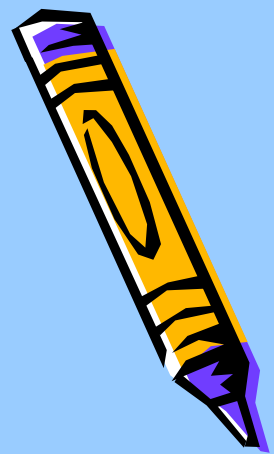
Transition to Kindergarten



- How do centers address the fact that their preK children may attend multiple elementary schools?
- Where do centers find funds to support transition activities?
- How much responsibility are parents expected to take?



Children with Special Needs



- Are children bused to a school site for services?
- Can children receive services on site?



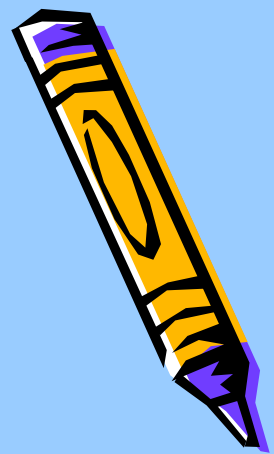
Curriculum and Assessment



- Do preK program requirements result in having multiple curricula and assessments for the same program or same children?
- Is the curriculum aligned with the assessment?
- Does the school district or the center choose the curriculum and assessment?



Community Planning and Coordination



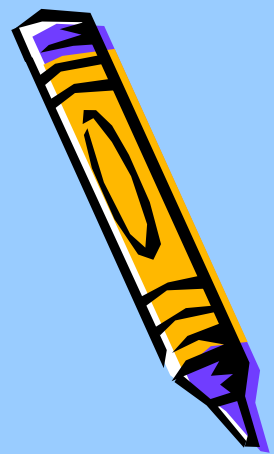
- What is the value of local councils?
- What are the different roles of local councils?
 - Information sharing
 - Planning
 - Policy setting
 - Coordinating staff
 - Other supports for children and families
- What role do centers play in the local councils?



Impact of PreK on Center Overall: Potential Benefits



- Does preK lead to an increased emphasis on quality throughout the center?
- Do teachers with degrees in the preK program provide a model to other teachers?
- Does preK provide resources for other children and parents in the center?
- Can four-year-olds not enrolled in preK be in the same classroom as preK children?



Impact of PreK on Center Overall: Potential Costs

- Are infant and toddler classrooms losing teachers with bachelor's degrees?
- Is it difficult to sustain infant and toddler care as more profitable classrooms are lost?
- Do directors have less time for other center business?

