

NOVEMBER 2023

# NEVADA READY! STATE PRE-K PROGRAM

Building a foundation for school readiness and success in pre-k and beyond.

NOVEMBER 1 REPORT FOR FY22 AND FY23.

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# NEVADA READY! STATE PRE-K (NR!PK) GRANT SUMMARY

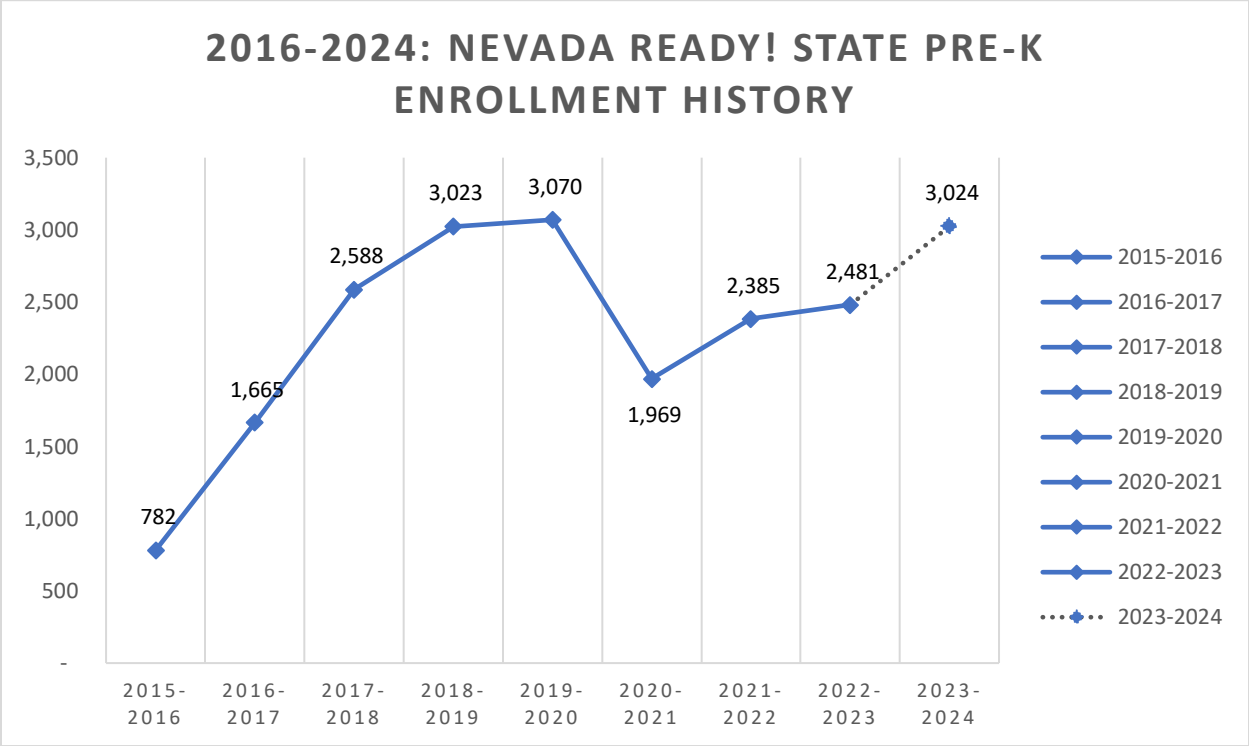
In 2001, Nevada implemented a small state funded pre-K program referred to as Nevada Early Childhood Education (ECE) State Pre-K. The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) was historically allocated \$3,338,875 per fiscal year and awarded funding to school districts through a competitive application process. The Nevada ECE State Pre-K program was open to 3- and 4-year-olds and most school districts offered half-day programs. In 2015, Nevada received a four-year Federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG). The purpose of the grant was to support states to build, develop and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from families experiencing poverty.

**Goals:**

1. Increase the number of full-day pre-K seats in high-need communities.
2. Provide critical wraparound support for families historically underserved.
3. Enhance state capacity to implement and sustain high-quality pre-K programs.
4. Build a cross-agency early childhood system.

With PDG funding in 2015, Nevada was able to expand the half-day Nevada ECE State Pre-K seats to full day seats as well as open new high-quality, full-day seats.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, \$44.5 million was allocated to fund 5,292 seats for the next biennium. The Nevada Ready! State Pre-K (NR!PK) program has experienced enrollment increases by 512 seats or 26% in the 2023 biennium. The chart in Appendix A shows the funding history of the NR!PK. As of October 2023, the NR!PK program has served nearly 18,000 four-year-old over the last eight years. The chart below shows the historical enrollment from 2016-2023 for NR!PK as well as the projected number of seats for fiscal year 2024 (FY24).



## NRS 387.652-658 OVERVIEW AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

During the 2019 Legislative Session Senate Bill 84 was passed, defining the standards for state funded pre-K programs into law. In the 2021 Legislative Session, the funding for NR!PK programs was adjusted to stabilize the seat cost across programs and to provide adequate resources for high-quality programming. The November 1 reporting requirements remained the same:

The Department shall, not later than November 1 of each odd-numbered year, submit to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Committee on Education a report concerning the effectiveness of prekindergarten programs supported by grants awarded pursuant to section 3 of this act during the immediately preceding biennium. The report must include, without limitation:

- The number of grants awarded;
- For each school district, sponsor of a charter school and nonprofit organization that received a grant during the immediately preceding biennium:
  - The amount of the grant;
  - The number of pupils who participated in a pre-Kindergarten program supported by the grant; and
  - The average cost per pupil who participated in each prekindergarten program supported by the grant;
- A description of prekindergarten programs that were most effective, including, without limitation, the reasons for the effectiveness of those programs;
- A description of any proposed revisions to the indicators of performance or minimum standards prescribed by the regulations adopted pursuant to section 5 of this act; and
- Recommendations for any legislation to increase the effectiveness of the grants awarded pursuant to section 3 of this act.

In FY22, the \$8,410 stabilized cost per seat went into effect for the NR!PK program and its subgrantees. In 2023, WestEd completed its 2-year partnership with the Nevada Department of Education and published its cost and equity study for the NR!PK program. WestEd’s study “reviewed and analyzed the state’s current cost model using the state \$8,410 per seat cost as an anchor point for preschool services within the context of the mixed-delivery system and compared it to the actual cost of meeting the program standards”.<sup>1</sup> WestEd’s study estimated a range of \$7,800 to \$16,600 per child and found that the \$8,410 per child funding does not cover the total cost of the program and provider in 4 out of 5 case study counties.<sup>2</sup>

## AMOUNT OF GRANTS AWARDED FOR FY22 AND FY23

The two tables below, Table 1 for FY22 and Table 2 for FY23, show the NR!PK funding allocations for the 2023 biennium. The allocation amounts are equal to the number of allocated seats multiplied by the \$8,410 cost per seat established in the 2021 Legislative Session. Simplifying the per seat cost, with the average cost of a high-quality seat set at \$8,410, meant subgrantees could more easily predict costs and request accurate funding. A count is collected on December 1 each year to determine how actual

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<sup>1</sup> WestEd, *Nevada Preschool Mixed-Delivery System: Cost and Equity Study*, June 2023, 1

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-3

enrollment compared to the number of allocated seats. Several districts braid their funding with other funding streams to better align programs and services. For example, this accounts for Washoe County School District’s enrollment number being more than their allocated amount.

During 2019-2020 school year, due to budget cuts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Lyon County School District ended their NR!PK program. Lyon County had eight schools and 263 NR!PK seats.

**FY22 Highlights:**

- There were 13 subgrantees participating in NR!PK in FY22 (United Way of Southern and Northern are at times separated for data reporting purposes).
- The NR!PK program had 91 sites in both schools and child care centers.
- For FY22, NR!PK had 161 seats unfilled or \$1,354,010 in unspent funds by December 1, 2021.
- In FY22, \$1,829,553 in Federal Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Funds (GEER) was used to supplement funding in NR!PK.
- In FY22, NR!PK had 157 teachers in both schools and child care centers.

**FY23 Highlights:**

- NR!PK increased the number of allocated seats by 180.
- There were 13 subgrantees participating in NR!PK in FY23 (United Way of Southern and Northern are at times separated for data reporting purposes) .
- The NR!PK had 93 sites in both schools and child care centers.
- In FY23, NR!PK had 245 seats unfilled or \$2,060,450 in unspent funds by December 1, 2022.
- In FY23, \$3,170,447 in GEER money was used to supplement funding in NR!PK.
- In FY23, NR!PK had 161 teachers in both schools and child care centers.

**Table 1: FY22 Funding for Nevada Ready! State Pre-K**

<b>Subgrantee</b>	<b>Allocation in Dollars</b>	<b>Allocated Seats</b>	<b>Dec 1 Count</b>
<b>Carson</b>	\$ 1,177,400	140	130
<b>Churchill</b>	\$ 714,850	85	83
<b>Clark</b>	\$ 5,441,270	647	648
<b>Community Services Agency</b>	\$ 311,170	37	32
<b>Great Basin College</b>	\$ 84,100	10	10
<b>Humboldt</b>	\$ 521,420	62	52
<b>Mineral</b>	\$ 176,610	21	23
<b>Nye</b>	\$ 1,513,800	180	157
<b>Pershing</b>	\$ 176,610	21	10
<b>State Public Charter School Authority</b>	\$ 1,396,060	166	166
<b>United Way of Northern Nevada</b>	\$ 1,370,830	163	60
<b>United Way of Southern Nevada</b>	\$ 4,297,510	511	473
<b>Washoe</b>	\$ 3,986,340	474	510
<b>White Pine</b>	\$ 243,890	29	31

<b>Total</b>	\$	21,411,860	2,546	2,385
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**Table 2: FY 23 Funding for Nevada Ready! State Pre-K**

<b>Subgrantee</b>	<b>Allocation in Dollars</b>	<b>Allocated Seats</b>	<b>Dec 1 Count</b>
<b>Carson</b>	\$ 1,345,600	160	110
<b>Churchill</b>	\$ 714,850	85	85
<b>Clark</b>	\$ 5,609,470	667	671
<b>Community Services Agency</b>	\$ 311,170	37	36
<b>Great Basin College</b>	\$ 84,100	10	10
<b>Humboldt</b>	\$ 521,420	62	46
<b>Mineral</b>	\$ 336,400	40	18
<b>Nye</b>	\$ 1,513,800	180	133
<b>Pershing</b>	\$ 176,610	21	21
<b>State Public Charter School Authority</b>	\$ 2,068,860	246	246
<b>United Way of Northern Nevada</b>	\$ 1,446,520	172	133
<b>United Way of Southern Nevada</b>	\$ 4,381,610	521	461
<b>Washoe</b>	\$ 4,154,540	494	474
<b>White Pine</b>	\$ 260,710	31	37
<b>Total</b>	\$ 22,925,660	2,726	2,481

## EFFECTIVE PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

A few measures are used to determine the effectiveness of NR!PK programs: The Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and program outcome indicators. The program outcome indicators include measures in two areas: Child Progress and Family Engagement.

### *Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)*

NR!PK programs must follow the attached program elements (Appendix C) and guidelines as originally defined by PDG funding and now included in NRS 387.652. One measure to determine program quality is the QRIS for early childhood programs.

The QRIS is a method to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early learning settings. It is designed with two primary purposes:

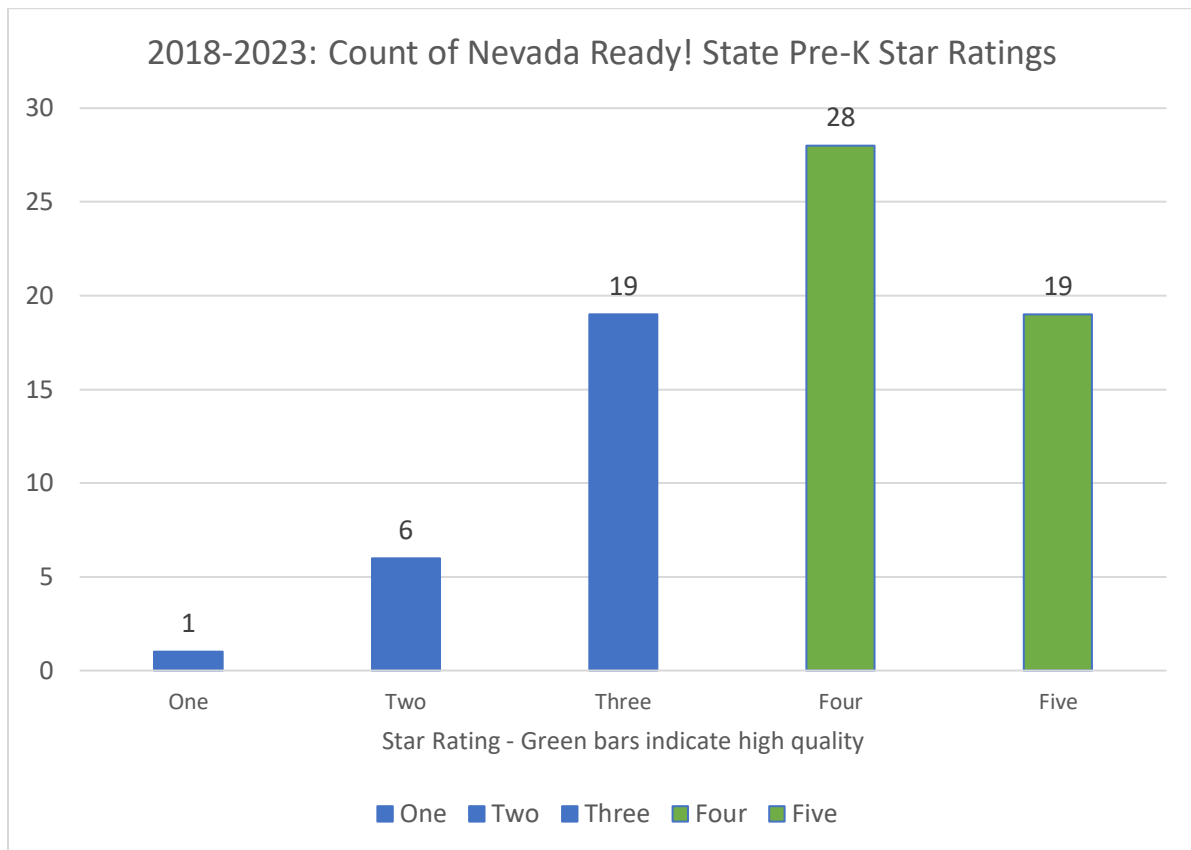
- To assist early learning programs, regardless of their setting, with efforts to provide high quality care and education.
- To help families identify high quality programs for their young children.

Through QRIS, participating prekindergarten programs are provided with up to 24 months of coaching support prior to being assessed for their star rating. During coaching, programs work on their Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). Then, programs are rated on a 5-star scale. Ratings consist of a review of quality indicators and required criteria, as well as an on-site observation by a highly trained QRIS assessor using

the Environment Rating Scales (ERS). Once a program receives their initial star rating, the QRIS coaches continue to support programs to improve and increase their level of quality. Programs receive a new star rating every 2 years.

QRIS Ratings of NR!PK Sites:

- 78 schools that received NR!PK funding were rated in the period of 2018 to 2023.
- 64% received Four- and Five-Star ratings indicating high quality level programming. That is 13 percentage point increase from the previous biennium.
- The number of One-Star rated programs is down to a single school-based program.
- Five programs remain participating in QRIS but are still not yet rated.



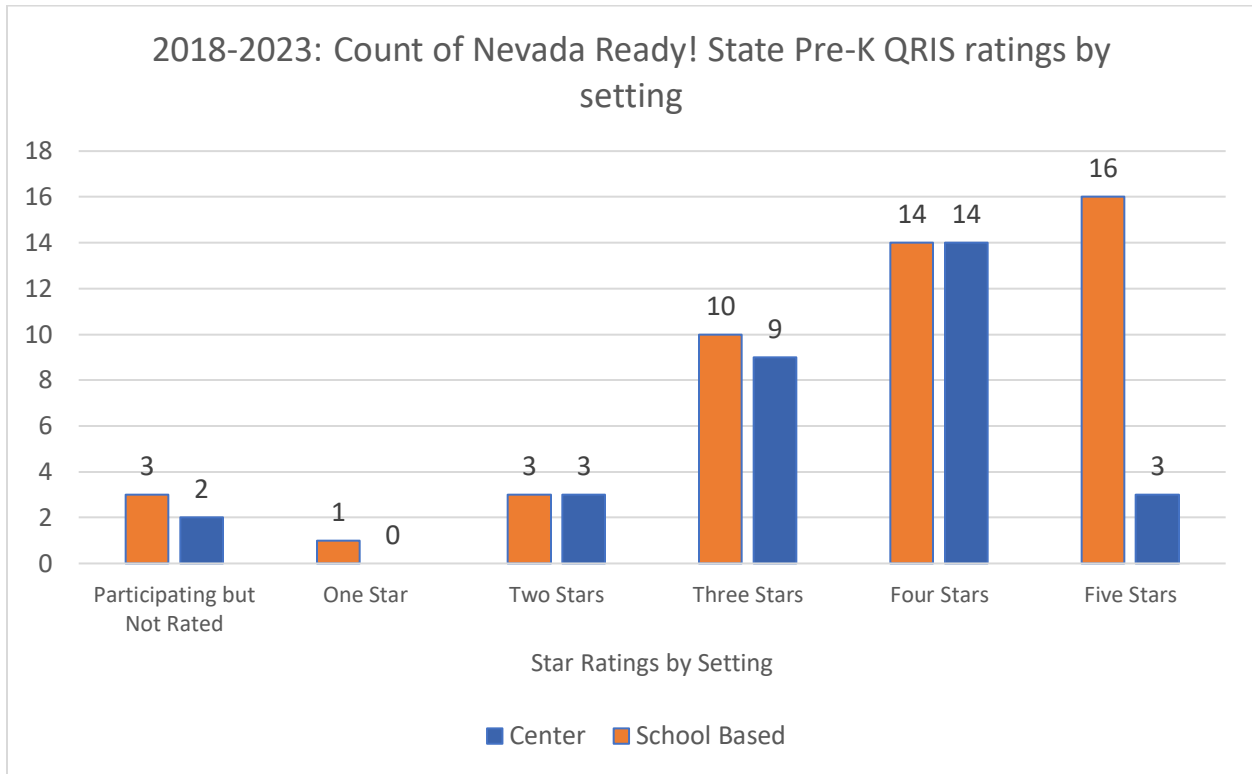
Due to funding considerations, the Local Education Agency (LEA) QRIS model was temporarily excluded from the QRIS system from 2017 to 2019. Subsequently, in the 2019-2020 period, the LEA model was reintegrated into the system. When an LEA program joins QRIS, they undergo coaching and training for a duration of 2 years before receiving their initial rating. Therefore, the data indicates that the LEA programs maintained their status as "Participating but not rated" until the 2022-2023 period when they commenced receiving their initial star ratings following their reintegration into QRIS and the conclusion of the COVID shutdown.

From 2018 through 2023, 47 NR!PK programs were rated high-quality (4 and 5 stars) using the ERS.

- 30 out of the 47 Five Star programs were in school-based settings.



- 17 of the 47 Five Star programs were in center-based locations.



“My son comes home raving about how much he learned each day. He can write his full name all on his own.” – Parent comment on the Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Family Engagement Survey

*Program Outcome Indicators*

In July 2022, the contract with Curriculum Associates for the Brigance Early Childhood Screen III (Brigance) ended due to a lack of funding. The Brigance was the primary method of measuring the impact of quality and child progress in NR!PK programs. Access to the Online Management System, which housed screening data for NR!PK subgrantees, childcare centers, and charter schools, was shut down after a final backup of child assessment data was downloaded by the NR!PK team on July 1, 2022.

Without the funding or the ability to complete another RFP within the timeframe, the NR!PK team transitioned to collect comprehensive assessment data from each subgrantee instead. NR!PK subgrantees had already been using a comprehensive assessment in conjunction with their pre-K curriculums. Ideally, this method would introduce the least amount of burden on pre-K coordinators, teachers, and administrators in programs. However, it was imperative that each assessment and curriculum were aligned with statewide high quality pre-K standards.

In the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023, the NR!PK team met several times with subgrantees as a group to propose the comprehensive assessment plan, hear feedback, identify which subgrantee was using which assessment tool, implement suggestions, and have a collection method ready by spring 2022.

Table 3 lists subgrantees by the assessment tool they use and if it includes a data management system for digital monitoring and reporting purposes. Across the 14 subgrantees there are 4 different comprehensive assessment tools.

**Table 3: Comprehensive Assessments by State Pre-K Subgrantee**

Subgrantee	Assessment Tool	Online Data Management
Carson City	Teaching Strategies Gold	Yes
Churchill	Teaching Strategies Gold	Yes
Clark	Teaching Strategies Gold	Yes
Community Services Agency	Teaching Strategies Gold	Yes
Humboldt	Teaching Strategies Gold	Yes
Mineral	Teaching Strategies Gold	Yes
Nye	Teaching Strategies Gold	Yes
Pershing	Teaching Strategies Gold	Yes
United Way of Northern Nevada	Teaching Strategies Gold	Yes
Great Basin College	Brigance Inventory of Early Development III	No
State Public Charter School Authority	Brigance Inventory of Early Development III	Yes, but paid for separately
White Pine	Brigance Inventory of Early Development III	No
Washoe	Frog Street AIM Observational Assessment	Yes
United Way of Southern Nevada	COR Advantage	Yes

### *Child Development Indicators and Results*

The transition to comprehensive assessments as the main source of child progress data necessitated changes to NR!PK program’s outcome indicators. These new indicators were presented to and reviewed by all subgrantees. Furthermore, it was determined the outcome indicators will be currently “under review” until the program is able to identify an appropriate and achievable program-wide target goal after collecting 1-2 years of data from the existing tools to determine an appropriate benchmark.

- **Child Growth Indicator #1:** At least 75% of children participating in NR!PK programs will meet or exceed benchmarks as measured by comprehensive assessment data.
- **Child Growth Indicator #2:** At least 75% of children enrolled in NR!PK will show improvements from fall to spring in all early learning domains as measured by comprehensive assessment data.

In spring 2023, subgrantees submitted their comprehensive collection data to the NR!PK team for the first time. Therefore, the current child growth indicators, will be revised accordingly based on the trends of the first couple years of data to be measurable and achievable. Comparing results across four separate assessments is challenging and not every assessment tool aligns along the same number or category of pre-K domains. However, each assessment reports on whether students were below, meeting, or exceeding standardized benchmarks.

For Teaching Strategies Gold, one school, Tonopah Elementary School in Nye County, did not submit data due to labor shortages.

Three subgrantees who use the Brigance Inventory of Early Development III (BRIGANCE IED) were unable to provide data in a format that could be compared to other assessments in time for this report. Only the BRIGANCE IED data for the State Public Charter School Authority at Mater Academy is included in this report. One subgrantee uses Frog Street/AIM which measures growth across only 4 domains compared to the 5 or more in other assessments. Frog Street/AIM also uses 4 levels of progress compared to the three categories of below, within, or above that the other comprehensive assessments align on. Because of this misalignment, it is not possible currently to compare Frog Street/AIM data to other assessments or measure Child Growth Indicator 1 and/or Child Growth Indicator 2.

### Child Growth Indicator 1 Results

The current Child Growth Indicator 1 requires that NR!PK subgrantees have at least 75% of children participating in NR!PK programs meeting or exceeding benchmarks as measured by comprehensive assessment data. The following tables (4-7) show the comprehensive assessment data reported by assessment type and what percentage of students were meeting or exceeding benchmarks in the spring 2023 assessment window.

**Table 4: Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Growth: Teaching Strategies Gold - Percentage of students who were meeting or exceeding benchmarks in spring 2023**

Subgrantee	Early Learning Domains					
	Social-Emotional	Physical	Language	Cognitive	Literacy	Mathematics
Carson	37%	11%	42%	56%	47%	13%
Churchill	0%	97%	0%	0%	6%	22%
Clark County	90%	97%	91%	94%	93%	88%
Community Services Agency - Sutro	90%	90%	90%	80%	80%	70%
Community Services Agency - Vassar	86%	86%	71%	86%	71%	72%
Humboldt	90%	92%	88%	82%	92%	88%
Mineral	48%	43%	67%	57%	90%	90%
Nye	67%	92%	68%	62%	46%	70%
Pershing	90%	80%	85%	70%	85%	80%

<b>United Way of Northern Nevada</b>	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
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**Table 5: Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Growth: BRIGANCE IED III - The average percent correct for all tests by domain in spring 2023**

<b>SPCSA Schools</b>	<b>Literacy and Language</b>	<b>Math and Science</b>	<b>Physical Development and Health</b>	<b>Social Emotional Learning</b>	<b>Approaches to Learning</b>
<b>Mater Academy Bonanza</b>	64%	72%	66%	90%	99%
<b>Mater Academy East</b>	43%	54%	74%	90%	99%
<b>Mater Academy Mountain Vista</b>	49%	64%	74%	85%	96%

**Table 6: Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Growth: COR Advantage - Percentage of students who were meeting or exceeding benchmarks in spring 2023<sup>3</sup>**

<b>United Way of Southern Nevada - COR Early Learning Domains</b>	<b>Meeting/Exceeding</b>
<b>APPROACHES TO LEARNING</b>	82%
<b>SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	74%
<b>PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH</b>	86%
<b>LANGUAGE, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION</b>	72%
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	64%
<b>CREATIVE ARTS</b>	86%
<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</b>	78%
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	68%

**Table 7: Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Growth: Frog Street AIM – Percentage of students who were meeting or exceeding benchmarks in spring 2023**

<b>Washoe - Frog Street AIM Early Learning Domains</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Progressing</b>	<b>Occurring</b>	<b>Expanding</b>
<b>Social Foundation</b>	2%	52%	40%	6%
<b>Language &amp; Literacy</b>	4%	53%	38%	5%
<b>Cognition</b>	5%	59%	32%	4%
<b>Perceptual</b>	1%	45%	48%	6%

<sup>3</sup> Includes all United Way of Southern Nevada sites except for Acelero Learning

## Child Growth Indicator 2 Results

Child Growth Indicator 2 checks to see if at least 75% of children enrolled in NR!PK have shown improvements from fall to spring in all early learning domains as measured by the comprehensive assessment data. The following tables (8-11) show the comprehensive assessment data reported by assessment type and what percentage of students were meeting or exceeding benchmarks in the spring 2023 assessment window and if they have met the Child Growth Indicator 2 requirements.

**Table 8: Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Growth: Teaching Strategies Gold – Percentage of growth from fall to spring across domains**

Subgrantee	Social-Emotional	Physical	Language	Cognitive	Literacy	Mathematics
Carson	-19%	-45%	5%	-1%	13%	-1%
Churchill	0%	56%	0%	0%	6%	22%
Clark County	69%	51%	58%	70%	69%	70%
Community Services Agency - Sutro	24%	23%	23%	13%	30%	20%
Community Services Agency - Vassar	20%	-14%	5%	53%	38%	39%
Humboldt	29%	55%	35%	29%	36%	53%
Mineral	48%	43%	67%	57%	38%	29%
Nye	-21%	1%	-4%	-4%	23%	-21%
Pershing	40%	15%	15%	5%	70%	60%
United Way of Northern Nevada	53%	47%	19%	26%	26%	26%

**Table 9: Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Growth: Brigance IED III – Percentage of growth from fall to spring across domains**

SPCSA Schools	Literacy and Language	Math and Science	Physical Development and Health	Social Emotional Learning	Approaches to Learning
Mater Academy Bonanza	25%	16%	4%	8%	7%
Mater Academy East	16%	9%	0%	3%	3%
Mater Academy Mountain Vista	11%	11%	1%	2%	1%

**Table 10: Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Growth: COR Advantage – Percentage of growth from fall to spring across domains**

United Way of Southern Nevada - COR Early Learning Domains	Growth
APPROACHES TO LEARNING	7%
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	11%
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH	22%
LANGUAGE, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION	24%
MATHEMATICS	18%
CREATIVE ARTS	37%
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	33%
SOCIAL STUDIES	15%

**Table 11: Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Growth: Frog Street AIM – Percentage of growth from fall to spring across domains<sup>4</sup>**

Washoe - Frog Street AIM Early Learning Domains	Developing	Progressing	Occurring	Expanding
Social Foundation	-26%	-18%	39%	5%
Language & Literacy	-29%	-12%	36%	5%
Cognition	-37%	2%	31%	4%
Perceptual	-23%	-29%	46%	6%

“I feel that the teacher really focused on my child’s interest. She made sure that he was engaged in all the activities that were assigned to him. I feel that she got him ready for kindergarten and beyond. He was learning without even realizing he was learning. She made learning fun for him.” - Parent comment on the Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Family Engagement Survey

*Family Engagement Indicators and Results*

The NR!PK program is required by the Nevada Revised Statutes 387.656 to collect information concerning the engagement of families. In 2020-2021, NR!PK distributed its modified family engagement survey for the first time. Still based on the Harvard Family/School Relationship Survey developed by Dr. Hunter Gehlbach, the modified survey went through three phases of review in 2020. Department staff, NR!PK coordinators, and NR!PK teachers were all included in ranking the relevancy of questions, accounting for the changes that COVID-19 brought to our programs and making the survey bilingual (English and Spanish) in a single link. The sample size for those focus groups was 44.

The modified survey includes 19 questions and is administered once a year from March through May. There is a requirement that subgrantees meet a 20% minimum response rate for their total December 1

<sup>4</sup> Negative percentage growth in Developing and Progressing areas is growth in Occurring and Expanding areas.

enrollment. The survey is anonymous with 12 multiple choice questions, 3 open response questions, and 3 questions related to wraparound services.

Over 4,700 families have responded to the survey in just over three years since it launched. The success of the new survey over the last three years led the NR!PK team to develop a public-facing dashboard. The [Nevada Ready! State Pre-K - Family Engagement](#) dashboard launched in July 2023 and has received over 2,700 views as of October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The dashboard has 3 years of family engagement data with statewide and subgrantee level views. Parent comments, censored to protect any teacher and child names, are on display as well.

[Family Engagement Plans](#) (FEP), a required program element, are submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. FEP were also modified to fit the new rubric and family engagement survey.

The outcome indicators for the family engagement survey had to be revised to align with the new rubric and FEP. Individual survey results from the FES are used by each program to revise and update their programs' FEP submitted each year at the beginning of the year. The FEPs are reviewed by NDE each year based on the rubric below and feedback is provided to each subgrantee accordingly. 86% of all programs achieved over 40% participation rate of their families for FY23.

- **Family Engagement Outcome Indicator #1:** Programs will achieve over 20% participation rate for the NDE family engagement survey to be completed annually at the end of each program year.<sup>5</sup>

Family Engagement Plan Scoring Rubric			
0	1	2	3
Less than 20% Family Engagement Survey participation rate	Over 20% Family Engagement Survey participation rate.	Over 20% Family Engagement Survey participation rate.	Over 20% Family Engagement Survey participation rate.
	Family Engagement Plan shows no evidence that survey results informed planned FE practices	Family Engagement Plan shows clear evidence that survey results informed FE practices	Family Engagement Plan shows clear evidence that survey results informed FE practices  Family Engagement Plan reflects high impact FE practices

Below is statewide data captured by the FES survey about family perspectives of the program from the Family Engagement Dashboard:

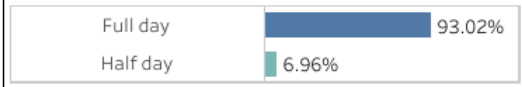
<sup>5</sup> The previous iterations of the Family Engagement Survey were not anonymous and mandatory, which did not align with survey industry best practices or methodology. A 20% response rate was chosen as an industry standard.

Below are the percentages of respondents who answered '4' or '5' on the survey questions. 100% would be a perfect, positive score.

Questions	
8. To what extent do you think that children enjoy their pre-K program?	94.58%
11. How well do you feel your child's pre-K program is preparing them for the next school year?	88.12%
13. How well do the activities offered in your child's virtual or in-person pre-K program match their interests?	84.84%
9. How fair or unfair is the pre-K program's system of measuring your child's progress?	82.27%
5. How often does your child's teacher(s) support you in helping your child understand what they are learning in their pre-K program?	81.03%
10. How much does the pre-K program value the diversity of children's backgrounds?	78.52%
6. How confident do you feel about supporting your child's learning at home?	75.43%
12. How well does your child's pre-K program acknowledge and include your child's cultural background?	66.85%
4. To what extent does your child's teacher(s) talk to you about your child's social-emotional learning?	63.11%
1. How often do you meet in-person or virtually with your child's teacher(s) to discuss your child's learning?	42.85%
3. In the past year, how often have you discussed your child's pre-K program with other parents from the program?	23.21%
2. Do you participate, virtually or in-person, in activities with other parents in your child's pre-K program?	21.73%

The data below reports data from the survey from families on what kind of support they needed.

Nevada Ready! State Pre-K families overwhelmingly prefer full day to half day pre-k across all settings.



What would your child be doing if they weren't attending the pre-k program?	
Staying at home with parents	34.63%
Staying with grandparents or adult family	24.06%
Attending Childcare	16.35%
Attending other preschool or infant/toddl..	14.92%
Staying at home with siblings	10.03%

What services are you in need of?	
After-school care	26.79%
Transportation	23.17%
Vision and Hearing Screenings	16.54%
Family Mental Health Support	10.06%
English Classes	8.17%
Support Accessing Social Services	6.09%
Job Training	4.93%
Job Search Assistance	4.24%



"La manera en que tratan a los niños y a los padres de familia. Siempre con paciencia y atentos a cualquier problema que se pueda presentar. Enfocados siempre en la educación de los niños y el desarrollo emocional y educativo de los niños (The way they treat the children and parents/family. Always with patience and open to [helping with] any issue that comes up. Always focused on education for the children and their emotional development and the children's overall education.)" - Parent comment on the Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Family Engagement Survey

## REVISIONS PROGRAM OUTCOME INDICATORS

Below please find a description of the concerns related to outcome indicators as they stand.

### Developmental Progress of Children

It is difficult for the state to oversee fidelity of the tools and reporting without the funding and infrastructure to do so internally. Therefore, the bullets highlighted below are several recommendations to improve data collection and alignment in the future. It is recommended that the program use this data and next year data to best determine an appropriate benchmark for one or both developmental progress of children outcome indicators.

### Comprehensive Assessment Data Collection and Alignment

The NR!PK team plans to make the following changes after experiencing the first year of comprehensive assessment data collection:

- Develop a Brigance IED data collection template to better streamline data that is submitted in a useable format across all three subgrantees using this tool.
- Streamline TSG data collection to use the same generated reports.
- Include N-size of those children having pre and post assessment data for all data tables.
- Develop a data dashboard to support data analysis, implementation, and alignment across subgrantees.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

Continued movement to implement *Universal Pre-K* is sweeping the country given its proven benefits [Cascio & Schanzenbach, 2013](#); [Gormley, Jr., Phillips & Anderson, 2017](#); [Malik, 2018](#); and [Lynch, 2020](#). Over many years the NR!PK program has achieved the status of a quality education program meeting both state and national quality benchmarks. Nevada has met 7 national benchmarks of quality as identified by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) for over 15 years. Nevada currently meets the following national benchmarks:

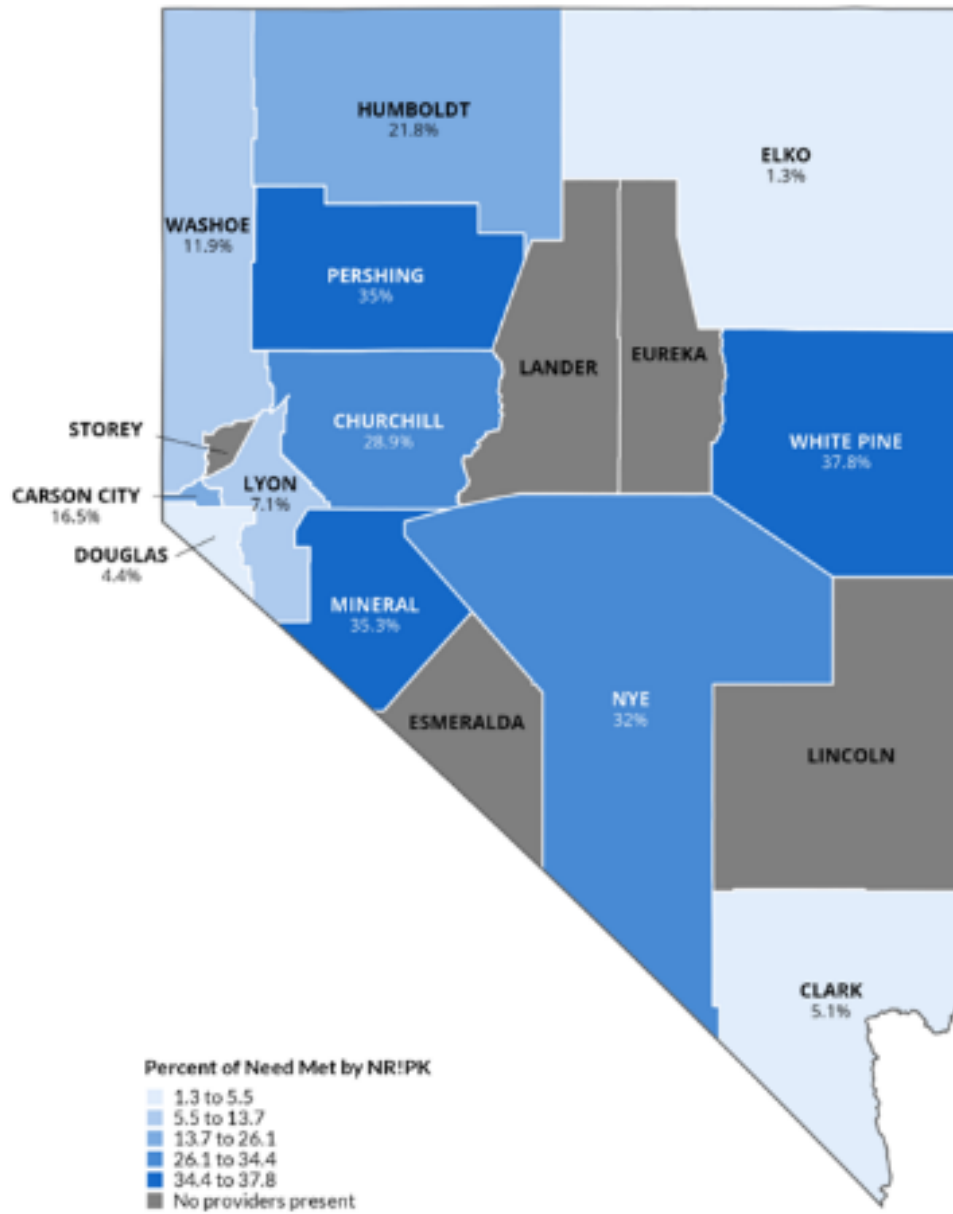
- 1) Early learning standards;
- 2) Curriculum support;
- 3) Teacher specialized training in ECE;
- 4) Maximum class size;
- 5) Staff: Child ratio;
- 6) Screening and referral; and
- 7) Continuous quality improvement system

Currently, Nevada ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in access to pre-K for 4-year-olds and ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in state spending. Nevada has increased state spending over the last few years from \$3.3M to \$22.9M moving from 15<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Nevada currently serves approximately 6% of 4-year-olds in the state (The State of Preschool 2022; NIEER).

The following are recommendations for the 2025 Legislative Session:

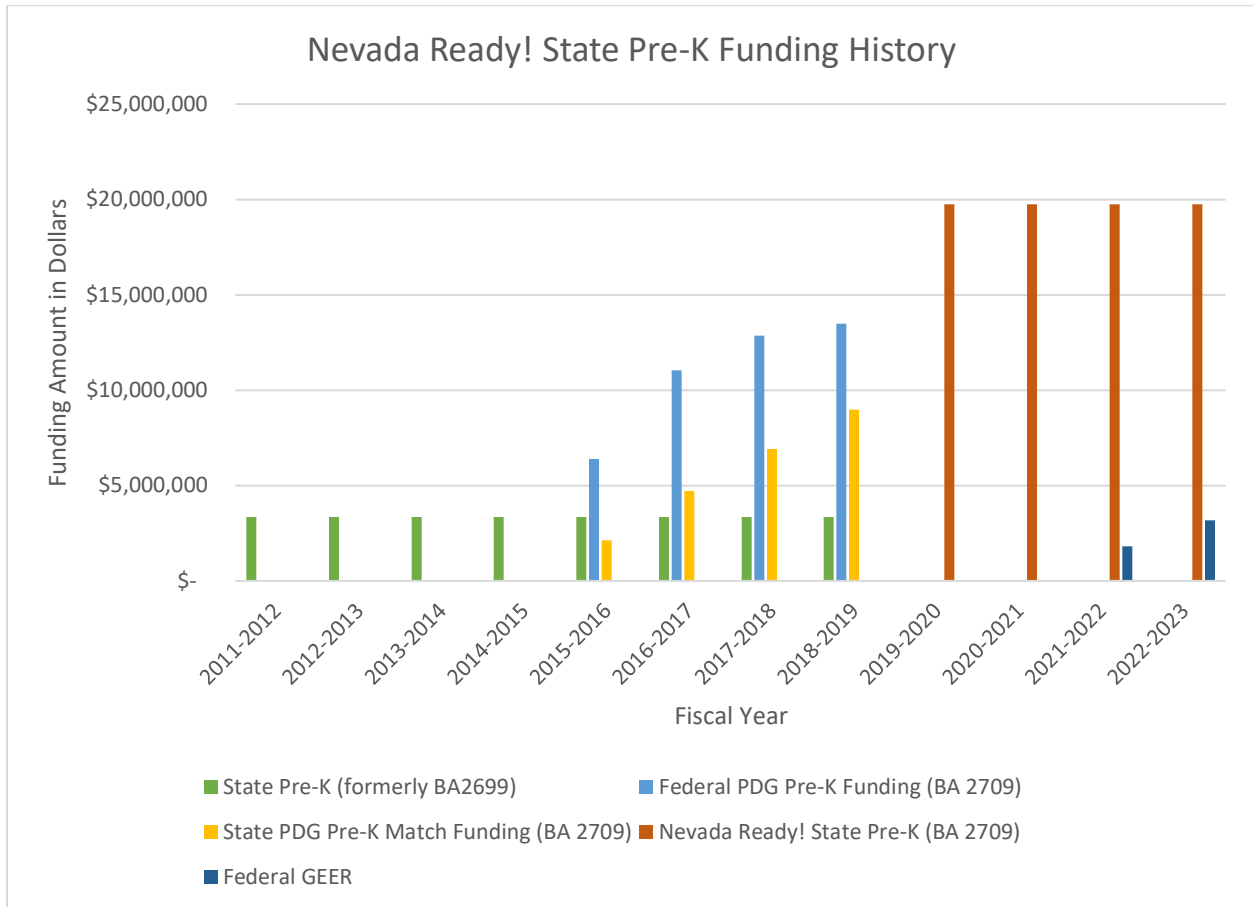
- Increase state investment to serve more children with the long-term goal of Universal Pre-K (UPK) for up to 70% of Nevada’s 4-year-old children. While Nevada is already implementing high-quality programming, funding is currently only available for a fraction of Nevada’s 4-year-olds. With increased funding Nevada can move toward universal voluntary pre-K services for every family regardless of income, and bolster the state’s capacity to administer, implement and evaluate the program.
- Continue funding for AB400 to expand eligibility and create pathways for UPK in respective districts that are serving required FPL populations.
- Include funding to support infrastructure, transportation, and wrap around services which are critical to high-quality programming but not currently fully funded.
- Include funding to support teacher recruitment and retention and facilities.
- Below are several findings and recommendations that were made based on the cost and equity study to strengthen and support the NR!PK mixed-delivery system conducted by West Ed (*Nevada Preschool Mixed-Delivery System: Cost and Equity Study Final Report; West Ed; June 2023*):
  - Tie NR!PK funding to inflation to maintain purchasing power. Making adjustments to the \$8,410/child to adjust for inflation and other weighted funding formula elements (i.e. rural, urban, etc.) based on the need of individual districts. As the report describes, the cost analysis suggests that the current \$8,410 per-child allocation does not cover all program element costs in 4 out of 5 of the case-study counties. This study estimates a \$7,800–\$16,600 per-child cost in the five case-study counties, with the costs for personnel and facilities comprising 91 percent of the average per-child estimate.
  - To improve teacher pay parity, provide funding and improve the monitoring of NR!PK teacher compensation
  - Address transportation challenges for families
  - Incentivize expanded operation and service hours for NR!PK providers
  - Demand for NR!PK far exceeds supply, leaving approximately 33,385 eligible children unserved. NR!PK is currently available to families with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line. Expanding the eligibility threshold to include households with incomes up to 225 percent of the federal poverty level would make an additional 3,687 children eligible for the program. Extending it further to include families with incomes up to 250% would benefit an additional 4,446 children, with numbers increasing similarly as the threshold is expanded. The graphic below shows the variability of districts and their individual pathways to serving all 4-year-olds.

Figure 1. Percentage of Need Met by NR!PK by County<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> WestEd, *Nevada Preschool Mixed-Delivery System: Cost and Equity Study*, June 2023, 49

## APPENDIX A – Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Funding History Chart



## APPENDIX B – Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Program Elements

Item	Description
Teacher Qualifications	<p>Each Early Childhood Education (ECE)/Pre-K teacher responsible for providing direct instruction to early childhood students must fulfill the licensure requirements for teaching the pre-K population, including an Early Childhood teacher’s license (requiring a Bachelor’s in education) or an ECE endorsement on a teacher’s license and must be paid a salary comparable to K-12 instructional staff.</p> <p>District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelors’ degree in ECE/ECSE OR</li> <li>• Bachelor’s degree in another field and working toward permanent license in a state approved ARL Early Childhood or Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed program (see link on page 1) OR</li> <li>• Bachelor’s degree in another field with 35 or more ECE college credits OR</li> <li>• Bachelor’s degree in another field and enrolled in TEACH Early Childhood OR</li> <li>• NDE and TEACH Early Childhood approved special exception</li> </ul> <p>Provider/Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.2 on Nevada Registry Career ladder or higher</li> </ul>
Eligibility	<p>Children enrolled in the program must be 4-years-old by August 1st and families determined to be income eligible below 200% of poverty level.</p>
Intensity	<p>All programs must provide a minimum of 25 hours per week of pre-K class time and follow the attendance policy of the local school board.</p>
Curriculum	<p>Programs must utilize the Nevada Pre-K Content Standards, revised and adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education. Programs must implement developmentally appropriate, research-based curriculum that is aligned to NV Prekindergarten Standards.</p>
Class Size/Ratio	<p>Class sizes and child/staff ratios must not exceed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classrooms will have no more than 20 children with 2 adults.</li> <li>• The referenced 2 adults will be             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An appropriately certified and licensed teacher, and</li> <li>2. An appropriately certified teaching assistant.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
Evaluation	<p>Programs must participate in the annual and longitudinal statewide program evaluation system. This includes using outcome indicators as identified by NDE and reporting required data to the Nevada Department of Education.</p> <p>Program quality will also be assessed by a reliable assessor using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition (ECERS-3).</p> <p>Programs must comply with health and safety standards.</p>
Family Engagement	<p>Family Engagement must be evaluated in conjunction with the pre-K program. Longitudinal data to determine effectiveness of family engagement will be used for program improvement and development of individual family engagement plans.</p>
Comprehensive Services	<p>Programs must demonstrate coordination with community resources/agencies in meeting the needs of participating children and families.</p>
Inclusion	<p>The percentage of eligible children with disabilities served is not less than either the percentage of four-year-old children served statewide through part B, section 619 of IDEA, or the current national average, whichever is greater, and is no more than 49% per classroom. Individualized accommodations and supports ensure access and participation for all children.</p>
Equitable Access	<p>Each child applicant will have equal access to the same extent as other children, (e.g. homeless, foster, military, tribal) even for those lacking initial enrollment documents.</p>