

Expanding Access to Quality Early Education & Supporting Kentucky's Working Families:

An Overview of Mixed-delivery Preschool



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*Benjamin M. Gies,
Director of Early Childhood Policy & Practice*



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What is mixed-delivery preschool?

A Public-Private Partnership

- A mixed-delivery model is best understood as placing a public preschool classroom within a private child care center.
- Mixed-delivery preschool facilitates partnership among public school districts and private child care providers to expand access to publicly funded early learning services.
- A mixed-delivery system wraps child care services around public preschools to provide full working day services for children and their working parents.
- The model blends funding from multiple early childhood funding streams to provide after-school care in one setting.





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What does mixed-delivery preschool mean for children, working families, public school districts, and early childhood providers?

A model that works for kids, working parents, preschool, and child care



- Kids participate in full-day, full-year preschool.
- Access to the same quality features that are available in other publicly-funded preschool classrooms.
- Curriculum that meets children's needs.



- Working parents receive flexible options that meet their needs.
- Care for children is matched to work schedules.
- Children are in one high-quality setting the entire time their parents are at work.



- Expands preschool services.
- Provides support to districts with limited funds or where school facilities have limited space for preschool classrooms.
- Connects families to the school system sooner and more children are k-ready.



- Provides public funding for centers that meet Kentucky Division of Child Care benchmarks for quality and safety.
- Increases resources to better maintain quality in child care.





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Why is mixed-delivery preschool needed in Kentucky?

Quick Facts

In their earliest years, half of Kentucky kids are left behind their peers who were fortunate enough to have received a stronger start earlier in their education.

- [Kentucky ranks 41st in the nation in the number of three and four-year olds enrolled in preschool](#), a fall from [28th in the nation in 2008](#).
- For the last decade, the total number of Kentucky three- and four-year-olds enrolled in preschool has flatlined at around 50%.
- In the fall of 2020, [only 53% of Kentucky public school kindergartners were identified as kindergarten ready](#) on the Brigance screener.

As big of an impact that access to early education has on Kentucky's youngsters, that access has a similarly important impact on their working parents.

- Public preschool services provide opportunities for approximately 50% of young children in Kentucky, but [per the National Institute for Early Education Research](#), only 94 of Kentucky's 525 public preschool programs provide full day services.
- Half-day options limit access for working parents dependent on care for their child for a full working day.
- [Recent research](#) estimates the lack of available care for a full working day has substantial annual costs in lost earnings, business productivity, and tax revenue.
- In Kentucky, this accounts for \$573 million in lost earnings, business productivity, and tax revenue.





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What are pitfalls to avoid in preschool expansion?

Can't we just expand the public school system?

A full-scale expansion of public preschool without public-private partnerships will crash the private child care industry, leaving limited to no care available for families with children aged 0-3, according to the [Early Care and Education Consortium](#).

Take caution from:

- Tulsa, Oklahoma
- California
- New York City



The Right Direction: Mixed Delivery Early Care and Education
(Bipartisan Policy Center, 2021)





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**What are model states
Kentucky can emulate?**

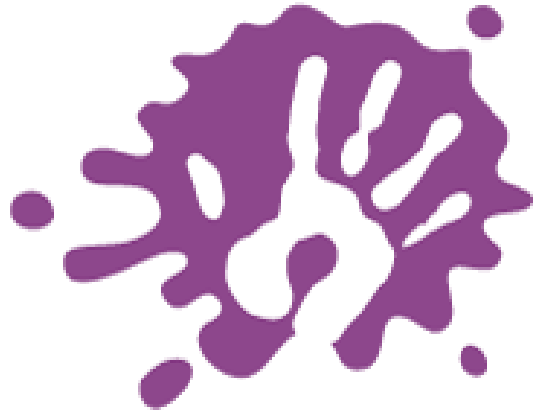
Mixed-delivery Model States



West Virginia



Local Innovation



GREATER OWENSBORO

**Partnership for
Early Development**





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Questions?