



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

Joint Technology Committee Supplemental Hearing

January 11, 2023

Universal Preschool Colorado Highlights

- Colorado is now **8th** in the country in terms of 4 year olds enrolled in preschool, up from 26th in the 2021-22 school year
- **38,866** 4 year olds enrolled (as of 12/8) - **60%** of all 4 year olds in the state
- **94%** of families received one of their top 2 choices (82% received their top choice)
- **1,839** Universal Preschool Providers - 48% community-based providers, 38% school districts, 14% family child care homes
- Technology: On-time launch with no outages, downtime or security challenges



CC-IT-S-01 - Universal Preschool Program IT Capital Project

FY 2023-24 Total Requested: \$3.275M one-time General Fund

- Capital technology project to support systems enhancements to the Universal Preschool Program Application system to reduce manual processes and create a more streamlined experience for families and providers
 - Family application and portal updates
 - Provider portal enhancements
 - Improved data reporting
 - Streamlined placement for children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)



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Universal Preschool Program Evolution

	Year 1	Year 2
Families	Some families were dissatisfied with their matches or confused by an opaque, long process	Multiple applications paths that are personalized to family needs Smoother, faster matching process
Providers	Provider registration and profile management required significant manual intervention	Providers can better define and manage seats by program hours, language offerings, IEP seats and availability
Educators & Administrators	Reliance on manual processes	Automated process, reduced administrative burden, and user support



New Enrollment Functionality in Year 2

- **Pre-Registration:** With an eye towards continuity-of-care, a pre-registration process would be available for families with children currently enrolled, children with siblings currently enrolled, or with a family member currently employed by a participating provider.
- **Family Matching:** For families looking for a new preschool provider, the Family Matching process would offer families a simplified opportunity to be matched with a ‘just-right fit,’ based on their top choices through a one-stop-shop application.
- **Walk-In Direct Enrollment:** Closer to the start of the school year, families who have yet to enroll would work directly with a provider of choice to enroll as space allows.
- **Students with an IEP:** Throughout the enrollment process and school year, children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) would be supported through direct application, registration, and enrollment through their Administrative Unit (AU).



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THANK YOU