

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools 

DATE: September 24, 2024

SUBJECT: Blueprint Spotlight: Pre-K Mixed Delivery Implementation Update

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of Maryland's Pre-K Mixed Delivery System and its role in expanding access to high-quality early education through partnerships between public schools and private providers. This system is critical to meeting the diverse needs of Maryland families and achieving the goals set forth in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Background

Maryland's Pre-K Mixed Delivery System aims to expand access to high-quality Pre-K by fostering collaboration between public schools and private providers, including child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start programs, and more. The system allows families to choose the best educational setting for their children, ensuring flexibility while maintaining high-quality standards across both public and private programs.

To address challenges, initiatives such as the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF) offer tuition assistance to support early childhood educators in obtaining degrees. Maryland is also developing a career ladder for private providers, with professional learning opportunities starting in FY 26. The State is working toward fully funding Pre-K by FY 29, with a focus on sustainability for public and private providers.

Ongoing efforts include the [PUSH to Pre-K Initiative](#), which offers technical assistance to private providers, and improved communication between local education agencies (LEAs) and private providers through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Additionally, Pre-K Support Specialists are assigned to grantees to help manage grant administration, with continued support through technical assistance and open office hours.

Executive Summary

This presentation will provide information on the following:

- Purpose of the Pre-K Mixed-Delivery System
- Mixed-Delivery Waivers for Pre-K Seats by County
- Funding for Public and Private Providers by County
- Pre-K Challenges and Opportunities
- Appendix

Action

No action. Information Only.

Attachments

MSDE-State-Board-Blueprint Pillar 1 Update-Pre-K_FINAL

DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Blueprint Spotlight: Pre-K Mixed Delivery Implementation Update

September 24, 2024

Presented By |

Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Teaching and Learning
Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood
Tara Phillips, Executive Director, Division of Early Childhood





Presentation Outline

1. Purpose of the Pre-K Mixed-Delivery System
2. Mixed-Delivery Waivers for Pre-K Seats by County and Local Education Agency (LEA)
3. Funding for Public and Private Pre-K Providers by County
4. Pre-K Challenges and Opportunities
5. Appendix

Blueprint Pillar 1: Expanding Access to High-Quality Pre-K

The Pre-K Mixed Delivery System allows public and private providers to work together to offer high-quality Pre-K education. This system gives families the choice to select the best program for their children, whether it is a public or private provider.

Key goals include:

- Supporting kindergarten readiness
- Engaging families across all settings
- Building a highly skilled early childhood workforce
- Serving children with disabilities, multilingual learners, and children experiencing homelessness

Blueprint Vision for Expanding Access to High Quality Pre-K

Vision: The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future aims to increase the number of three- and four-year-old children enrolled in full-day, high-quality Pre-K by growing the capacity of both public schools and private providers. This vision includes ensuring that both private and public programs meet high-quality standards and work in partnership to create more options for families.

Definition: The mixed delivery system involves both public schools and private providers (such as child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start programs, Montessori schools, faith-based providers, and more). This model is designed to meet diverse family needs by ensuring there are a variety of high-quality Pre-K options to choose from.

Example of the Mixed Delivery System in Action

Example 1: A family in rural Maryland has two young children. The local public school's Pre-K is 30 minutes away, but a nearby family child care provider is part of the mixed delivery system. This provider meets state standards and offers the same high-quality curriculum in a more convenient, home-based setting.

Example 2: A family in an urban area of Maryland speaks primarily Spanish at home. They want to enroll their four-year-old in a Pre-K program that supports their child's language needs. While the local public school offers Pre-K, the family chooses a nearby community-based provider that specializes in bilingual education, part of Maryland's mixed delivery system. This provider offers culturally responsive teaching and supports the child's transition to learning English.

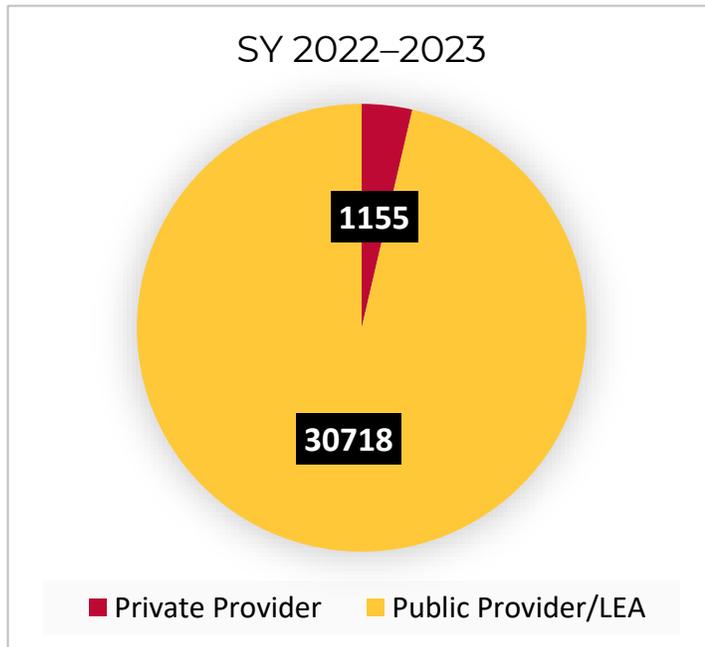
Why it matters: The mixed delivery system provides families with **flexible options**, allowing them to choose between public schools or private providers based on their needs. It ensures **all children, regardless of the setting, receive high-quality early education**. This flexibility is particularly important for families with unique needs, such as language support, helping early multilingual learners thrive in both their home language and English while preparing for school success.

Expectations for the Public-Private 50/50 Split of Pre-K Seats by School Year (SY) 2029–2030

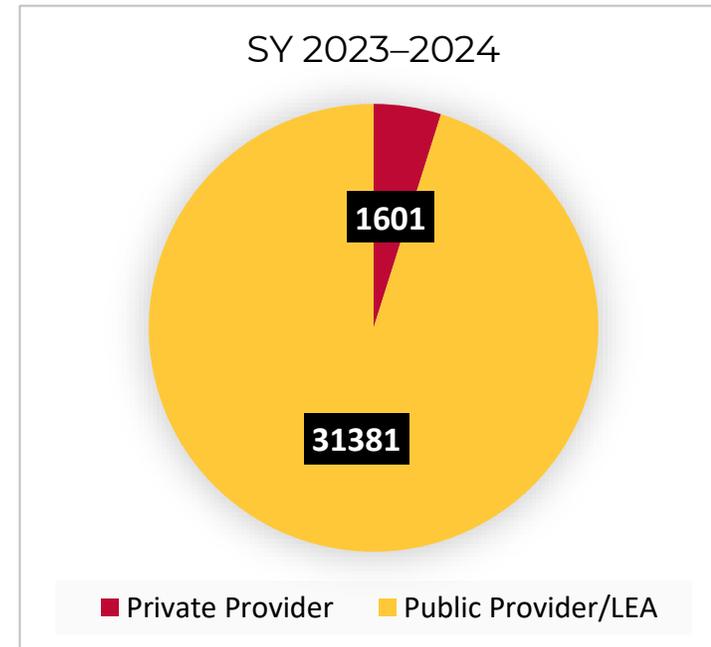
PREVIOUS LAW (Through SY 2023–2024) <u>Md. Code, Education §7-1A-03</u>	CURRENT LAW (Going Forward SY 2024–2025) <u>Md. Code, Education § 7-1A-03</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SY 2022–2023: At least 30% of the total prekindergarten slots in each county must be provided by eligible private providers.• Increase of 5 percentage points every school year.• By SY 2026–2027: Eligible private providers must account for at least 50% of prekindergarten slots in each county.• From SY 2026–2027 onward: The proportion of private provider prekindergarten slots must remain at 50% or higher.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SY 2024–2025: At least 10% of prekindergarten slots in each county must be provided by eligible private providers.• The proportion of private provider slots will increase by 10 percentage points every school year.• By SY 2028–2029: Eligible private providers must account for at least 50% of prekindergarten slots in each county.• From SY 2028–2029 onward: The proportion of private provider prekindergarten slots must remain at 50% or higher.

Statewide Pre-K Seats

Maryland saw a growth of 1,109 seats across the State from SY 2022–2023 to SY 2023–2024. Of that total, there was an increase of 446 private provider seats and an increase of 663 for public school seats.



There were a total of 31,873 Pre-K seats.



There were a total of 32,982 Pre-K seats.

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DCAA/SSP/20232024Student/2023-2024-Enrollment-By-Race-Ethnicity-Gender-A.pdf>

Detailed Presentation Outline

- Show the population of three- and four-year-olds by county and the percentage of children currently being served.
- Highlights counties working on expansion of Pre-K seats in partnership with private providers.
- Shows the public school and private provider Pre-K seat count by county and the percent of private providers in each county.
- Outlines current challenges and opportunities with the scale up of high-quality Pre-K.
- Appendix: Includes pie graphs displaying the proportion of public and private provider Pre-K seats for school year 2023–2024 by county.

Three- and Four-Year-Old Population by County (Estimates)

County	Total Number of Three- and Four-Year Olds	Percent of Pre-K Children Being Served by County*	Percent of Three- and Four-Year Olds in County	County	Total Number of Three- and Four-Year Olds	Percent of Pre-K Children Being Served by County*	Percent of Three- and Four-Year Olds in County	County	Total Number of Three- and Four-Year Olds	Percent of Pre-K Children Being Served by County*	Percent of Three- and Four-Year Olds in County
Allegany	1,347	37%	<1%	Charles	4,348	24%	3%	Prince George's	24,327	20%	16%
Anne Arundel	15,618	17%	10%	Dorchester	938	32%	<1%	Queen Anne's	1,049	34%	<1%
Baltimore City	14,579	29%	10%	Frederick	6,742	23%	4%	Saint Mary's	2,909	18%	2%
Baltimore	21,359	19%	14%	Garrett	558	36%	<1%	Somerset	427	67%	<1%
Calvert	2,044	14%	1%	Harford	6,525	17%	4%	Talbot	454	60%	<1%
Caroline	724	54%	<1%	Howard	8,086	21%	5%	Washington	3,690	32%	2%
Carroll	4,406	12%	3%	Kent	429	26%	<1%	Wicomico	3,136	27%	2%
Cecil	2,506	31%	2%	Montgomery	25,753	18%	17%	Worcester	715	79%	<1%

There is an estimated total of 152,669 three- and four-year-olds in Maryland.

*Percentages based on SY 2023–2024.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates,

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=B09001&t=Children&g=040XX00US24&y=2022&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Detailed%20Tables> and

[https://data.census.gov/table?q=B09001&t=Children&g=040XX00US24\\$0500000&y=2022&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Detailed%20Tables](https://data.census.gov/table?q=B09001&t=Children&g=040XX00US24$0500000&y=2022&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Detailed%20Tables)

Growth Over Time on Pre-K LEA and Private Provider Seats from SY 2022–2023 to SY 2023–2024

County	Public Providers	Private Providers	County	Public Providers	Private Providers	County	Public Providers	Private Providers
Allegany	+9%	-	Charles	+8%	-	Prince George's	<1%*	+11%
Anne Arundel	+5%	+64%	Dorchester	+7%	-	Queen Anne's	+18%	+50%
Baltimore City	+4%	+61%	Frederick	<1%*	+15%	Saint Mary's	-18%*	No change
Baltimore	<1%*	+67%	Garrett	<1%*	No change	Somerset	+38%	No change
Calvert	-32%*	-	Harford	+2%	+14%	Talbot	-7%*	No change
Caroline	+23%	+80%	Howard	+5%	+4%	Washington	+6%	+192%
Carroll	+9%	+37%	Kent	+10%	No change	Wicomico	-2%*	+24%
Cecil	+5%	+115%	Montgomery	+3%	+10%	Worcester	+7%	+47%

*Switched from half-day to full-day or other factors.

Examples of Growth in the Counties and Partnerships Between LEAs and Private Providers

Washington County

- Saw significant growth in full-day Pre-K and reduction in part-day Pre-K year over year since FY 17.
- Partnered with child care centers and family child care homes through site visits, coaching, and other collaboration initiatives.
- Partnered with Head Start, supporting children, families and teachers through kindergarten transition activities.

Baltimore City

- Reached capacity for 4-year-old Pre-K
- Partnered with the Head Start to serve 3-year-olds.
- Provided support and technical assistance to private provider grantees.
- Saw growth in the number of private providers participating in the Pre-K grants.

Public and Private Pre-K Seats by County in SY 2022–2023

County	Public Providers	Private Providers	Percent of Private Providers	County	Public Providers	Private Providers	Percent of Private Providers	County	Public Providers	Private Providers	Percent of Private Providers
Allegany	459	0	0%	Charles	958	0	0%	Prince George's	4,824	143	3%
Anne Arundel	2,394	85	4%	Dorchester	276	0	0%	Queen Anne's	296	2	Less than 1%
Baltimore City	3,767	168	4%	Frederick	1,539	20	1%	Saint Mary's	633	0	0%
Baltimore	3,766	136	4%	Garrett	203	0	0%	Somerset	206	0	0%
Calvert	414	0	0%	Harford	1,101	7	Less than 1%	Talbot	291	0	0%
Caroline	305	10	3%	Howard	1,451	200	14%	Washington	1,053	24	2%
Carroll	443	41	9%	Kent	101	0	0%	Wicomico	777	66	8%
Cecil	705	13	2%	Montgomery	4,308	182	4%	Worcester	448	58	13%

Please note: During this school year, each county needed 30% private providers. Please also note that all providers requested a waiver during this school year.

Public and Private Pre-K Seats by County in SY 2023–2024

County	Public Providers	Private Providers	Percent of Private Providers	County	Public Providers	Private Providers	Percent of Private Providers	County	Public Providers	Private Providers	Percent of Private Providers
Allegany	501	3	Less than 1%	Charles	1,034	3	Less than 1%	Prince George's	4,781	159	3%
Anne Arundel	2,504	139	6%	Dorchester	295	4	1%	Queen Anne's	349	3	Less than 1%
Baltimore City	3,917	270	7%	Frederick	1,551	23	1%	Saint Mary's	517	0	0%
Baltimore	3,748	227	6%	Garrett	201	0	0%	Somerset	285	0	0%
Calvert	280	15	5%	Harford	1,126	8	Less than 1%	Talbot	272	0	0%
Caroline	375	18	5%	Howard	1,521	207	14%	Washington	1,113	70	6%
Carroll	481	56	12%	Kent	111	0	0%	Wicomico	762	82	11%
Cecil	741	28	4%	Montgomery	4,435	201	5%	Worcester	481	85	18%

Please note: During this school year, each county needed 30% private providers. Please also note that all providers requested a waiver during this school year.

Scaling Up Pre-K by Navigating the Challenges and Seizing Opportunities

Challenges	Opportunities and Next Steps
<p>More funding and technical assistance is needed to support Pre-K lead teachers and assistant teachers with attaining required qualifications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund offers tuition assistance for child care providers to earn degrees. • Public Pre-K teacher assistants can use 5 years of experience to waive Child Development Associate and associate degree requirements. • MSDE, in partnership with other agencies and stakeholders, is developing a career ladder for private providers. • Free, asynchronous professional learning starts winter 2025.
<p>More funding per pupil is needed (currently \$13,000 per pupil)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cost of care study will model sustainability for private Pre-K programs. • By FY 29, Maryland will fully fund Pre-K per Blueprint standards.
<p>More information is needed for private providers about the Pre-K Expansion Grant and Blueprint Funding Grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSDE promotes the PUSH to Pre-K Initiative, which is a series of sessions where the Division of Early Childhood offers technical assistance and support to private providers who are working on or learning about the Pre-K Expansion Grant applications
<p>Communication gaps between local education agencies and private providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSDE will lead sessions throughout the school year where LEAs and private providers have opportunities to collaborate. • MSDE fosters collaboration between public and private providers through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to define roles in the partnership. In cases where a county has no private providers, MSDE asks for a plan from the LEA on how to recruit more private providers. MSDE is also working on implementing strategies to increase the supply of private providers in those counties. • MSDE provides professional learning and technical assistance to help LEAs engage private providers. • A list of all private providers is posted on the MSDE website.
<p>Difficulty with managing the administration of the grants for private provider programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-K Support Specialists provide customized and individual support to grantees. • Ongoing technical assistance and office hours available throughout the year.

Highlighting the Strengths of the Pre-K Mixed-Delivery System Implementation

What is going well?	More Information
<p>Increasing the number of public providers who are accredited and at a Maryland EXCELS level 4 or 5</p> <p>Increasing the number of private providers who are accredited and at a level of 3, 4, or 5.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the number of accredited public providers from 232 in FY24 to 357 in FY25. (This is a 54% increase.) • Increased the number of public providers with published quality ratings of 4 or 5 from 190 in FY24 to 306 in FY25. (This is a 61% increase.) • Increased the number of accredited public providers (child care centers) from 150 in FY24 to 184 in FY25. (This is a 23% increase.) • Increased the number of private providers with a published quality rating of 3, 4, or 5 from 1,119 in FY24 to 1,345 in FY25. (This is a 20% increase.)
<p>Increasing the number of private providers participating in publicly funded Pre-K including Family Child Care Homes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the number of Pre-K grantees from 53 in FY 24 to 75 in FY 25. • Increased the number of family child care programs participating in the Pre-K grant each year. Increased from 44 in FY 24 to 58 in FY 25.
<p>Expanding the PUSH to Pre-K Initiative to attract additional private providers to apply for the Pre-K grants to support the implementation of the mixed delivery system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding five additional PUSH to Pre-K Initiative sessions in FY 25 to provide information and increased support to potential Pre-K applicants.

Building the Supply of High-Quality Seats: Pre-K Data by County

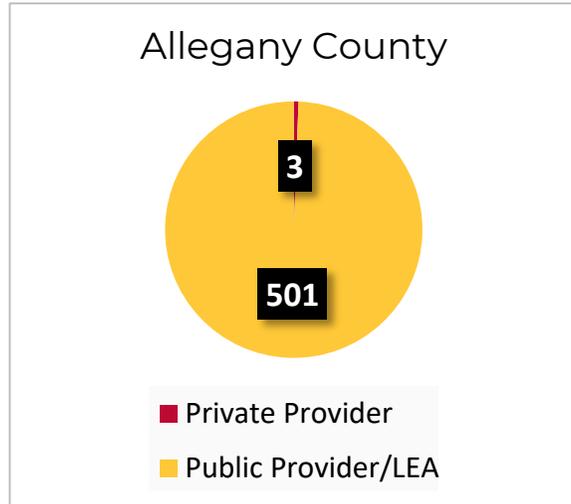
Appendix



Maryland saw a growth of 1,109 seats across the State from SY 2022–2023 to SY 2023–2024. Of that total, there was an increase of 446 private provider seats and an increase of 663 for public school seats.

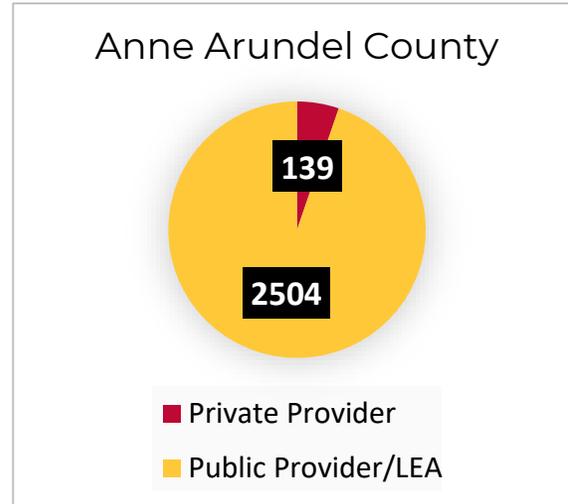
- It may appear in the data that some counties lost seats; however, much of this is due to conversion from half-day to full-day seats per the Blueprint.
- These data do not capture the enrollment in SY 2024–2025.

Public and Private Pre-K Seats by County for SY 2023–2024



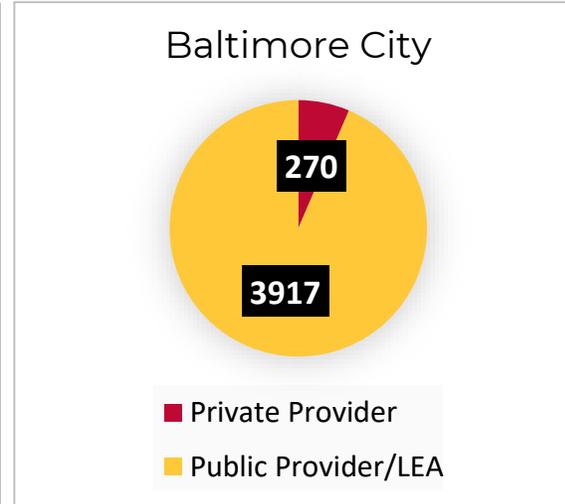
Allegany County saw a growth of 3 private provider seats and 2 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.



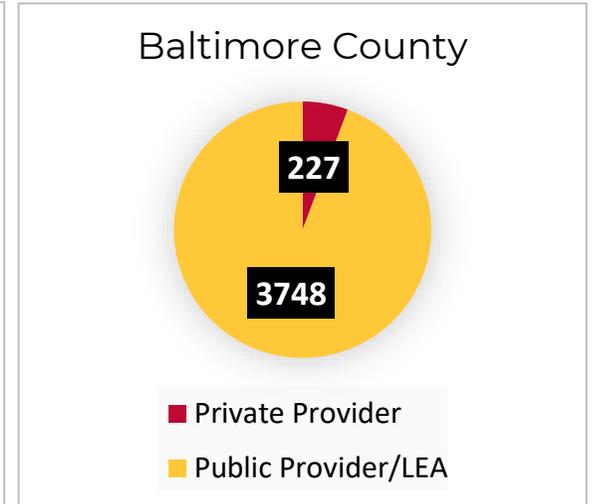
Anne Arundel County saw a growth of 54 private provider seats and 110 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.



Baltimore City saw a growth of 102 private provider seats and 150 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

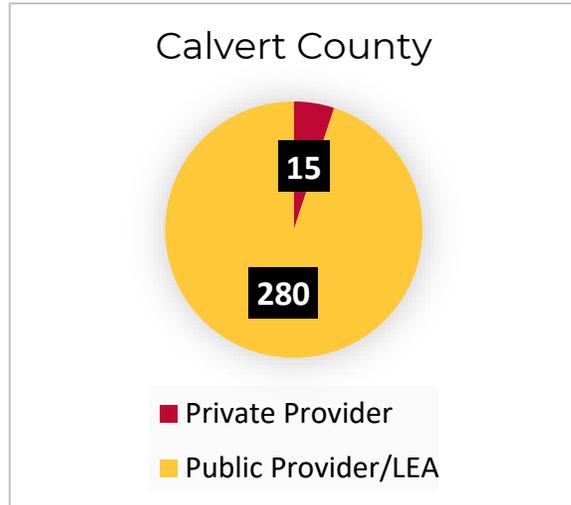
Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.



Baltimore County saw a growth of 91 private provider seats and a loss of 18 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

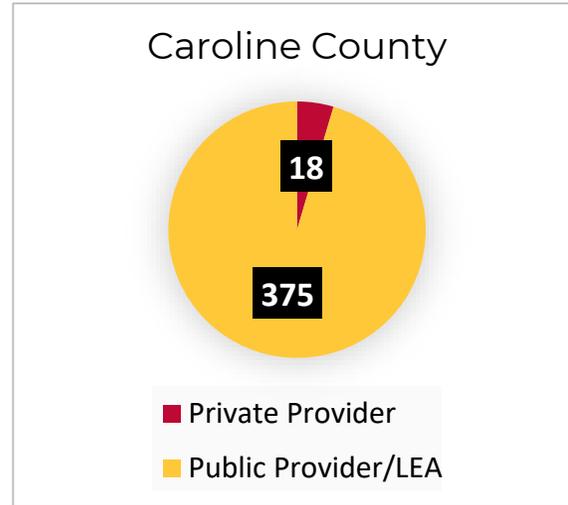
Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Public and Private Pre-K Seats by County for SY 2023–2024



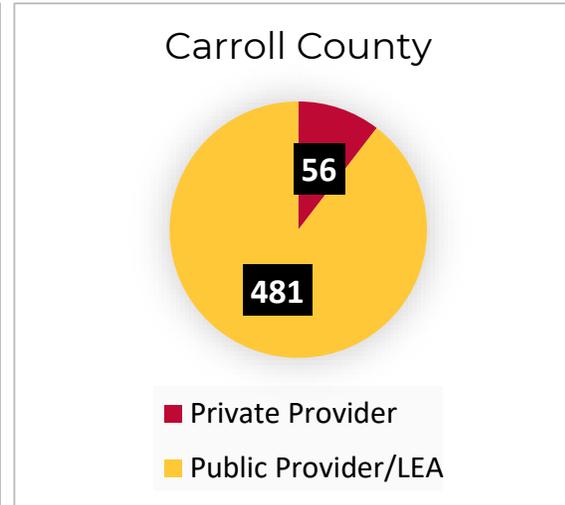
Calvert County saw a growth of 15 private provider seats and lost 134 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.



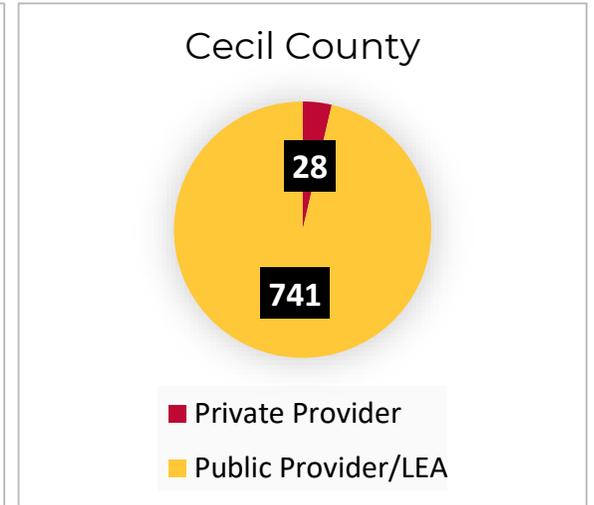
Caroline County saw a growth of 8 private provider seats and 70 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.



Carroll County saw a growth of 15 private provider seats and 38 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

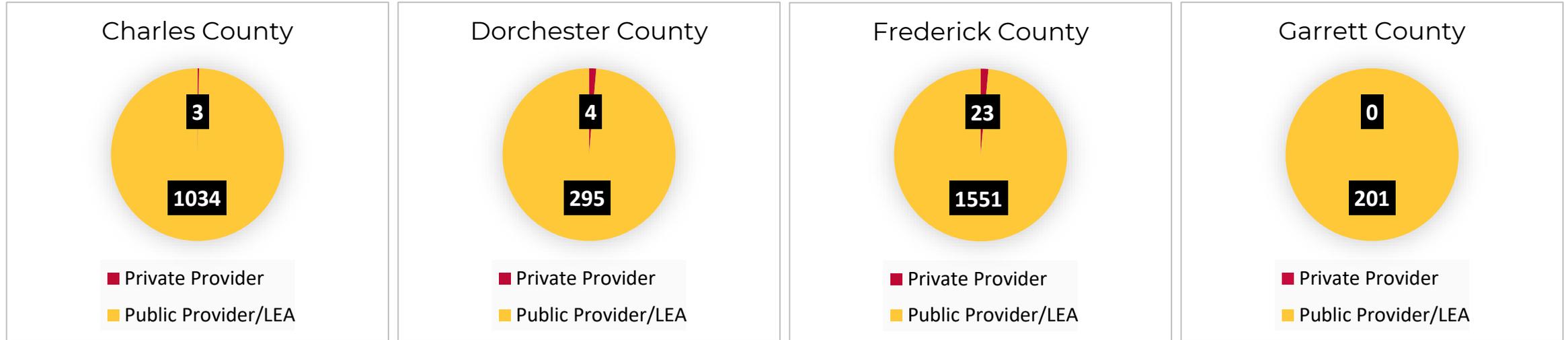
Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.



Cecil County saw a growth of 15 private provider seats and 36 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Public and Private Pre-K Seats by County for SY 2023–2024



Charles County saw a growth of 3 private provider seats and 76 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Dorchester County saw a growth of 4 private provider seats and 19 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

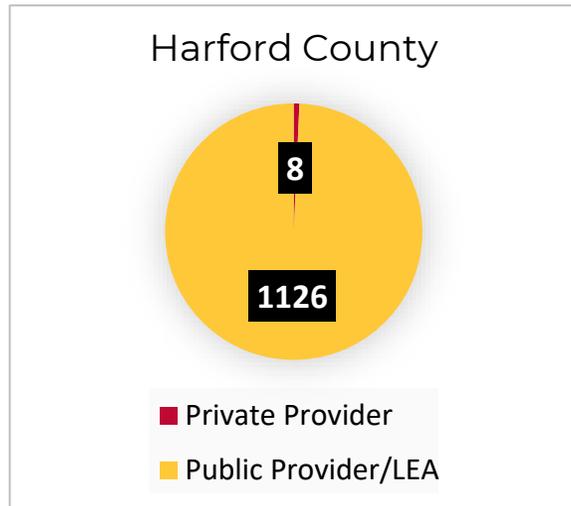
Frederick County saw a growth of 3 private provider seats and 12 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Garrett County had no private provider seats and lost 2 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

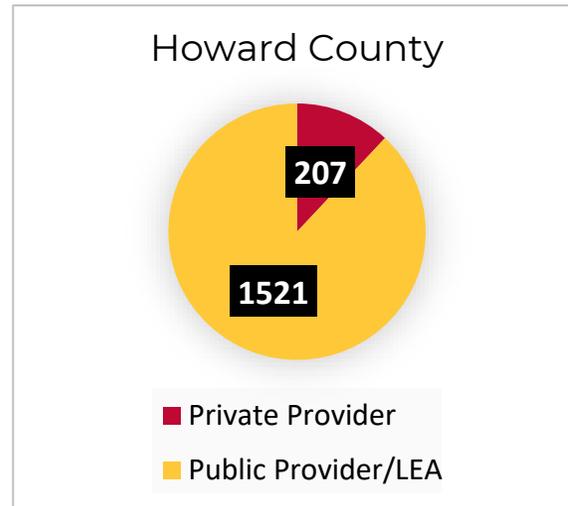
Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Public and Private Pre-K Seats by County for SY 2023–2024



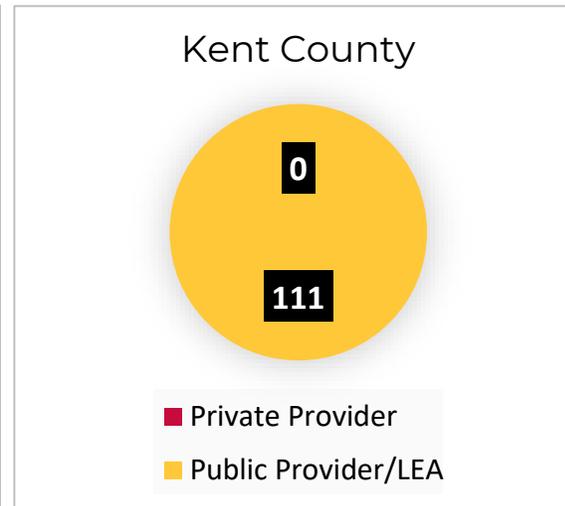
Harford County saw a growth of 1 private provider seat and 25 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.



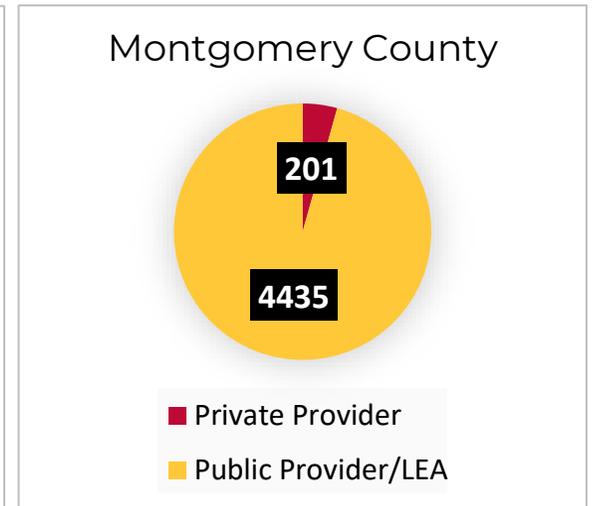
Howard County saw a growth of 7 private provider seats and 70 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.



Kent County had no private provider seats and gained 10 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

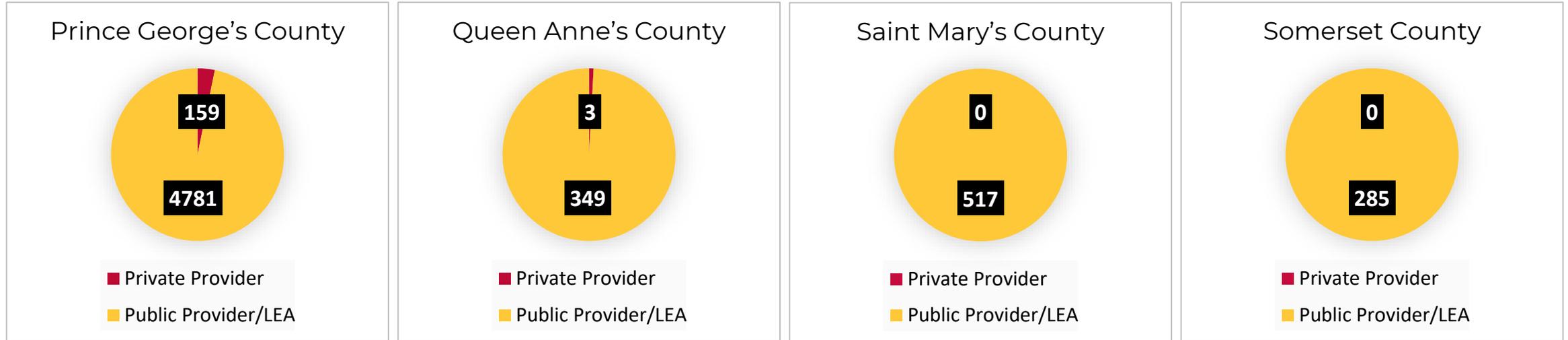
Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.



Montgomery County saw a growth of 19 private provider seats and 127 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Public and Private Pre-K Seats by County for SY 2023–2024



Prince George's County saw a growth of 16 private provider seats and lost 43 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Queen Anne's County saw a growth of 1 private provider seat and 53 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

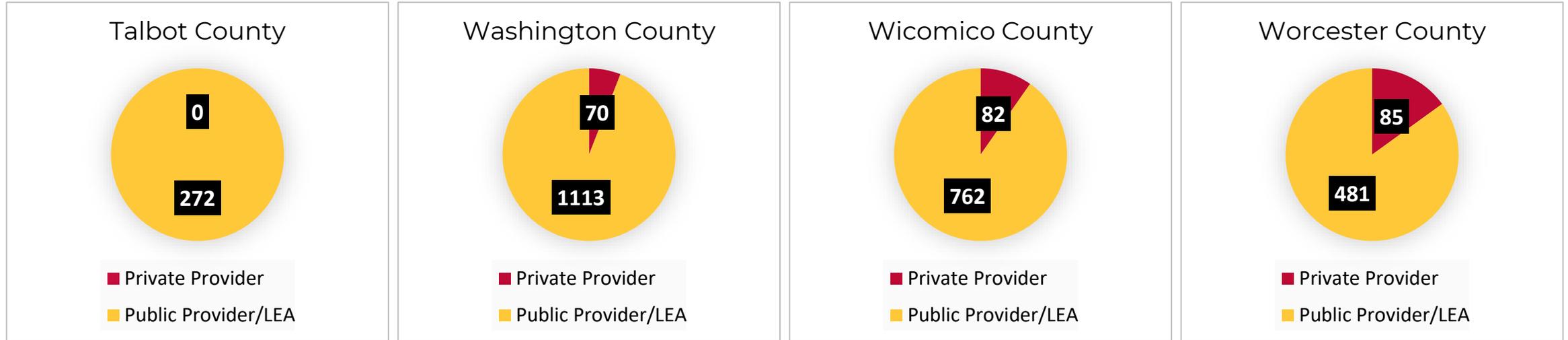
Saint Mary's County had no private provider seats and lost 116 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Somerset County had no private provider seats and gained 79 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Public and Private Pre-K Seats by County for SY 2023–2024



Talbot County had no private provider seats and lost 19 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Washington County saw a growth of 46 private provider seats and 60 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Wicomico County gained 16 private provider seats and lost 15 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.

Worcester County saw a growth of 27 private provider seats and 33 public school seats from SY 2022–2023.

Required a waiver in SY 2022–2023 and SY 2023–2024.