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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

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

**DATE:** April 29, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Stakeholder Engagement Session: Month of the Young Child MSDE Presentation

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### Purpose

The Division of Early Childhood will present information regarding milestones made towards the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Pillar 1. In addition, division leadership will introduce several stakeholders who have been invited to provide information on the advocacy and resources available to Maryland early childhood community in celebration and recognition of the Month of the Young Child.

Presentation including last slide with stakeholder associations [Blueprint Pillar 1 - State Board of Education.pptx](#).

### Action

No action is required; this information is for discussion only.

### Attachments

[Blueprint Pillar 1 - State Board of Education.pptx](#)



DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

# Blueprint for Maryland's Future: Pillar 1 Early Childhood Education

April 29, 2025

Presented By | Sarah Neville-Morgan, Assistant State Superintendent



A photograph of a smiling female teacher with curly blonde hair, wearing a green shirt, giving a high-five to a young Black girl with curly hair wearing a yellow and black striped shirt. They are in a classroom with other children and desks visible in the background.

# Presentation Outline

1. Public Pre-K Expansion
2. Expansion of Judy Centers and Patty Centers
3. Higher-Quality Early Learning
4. Messages from Our Stakeholders

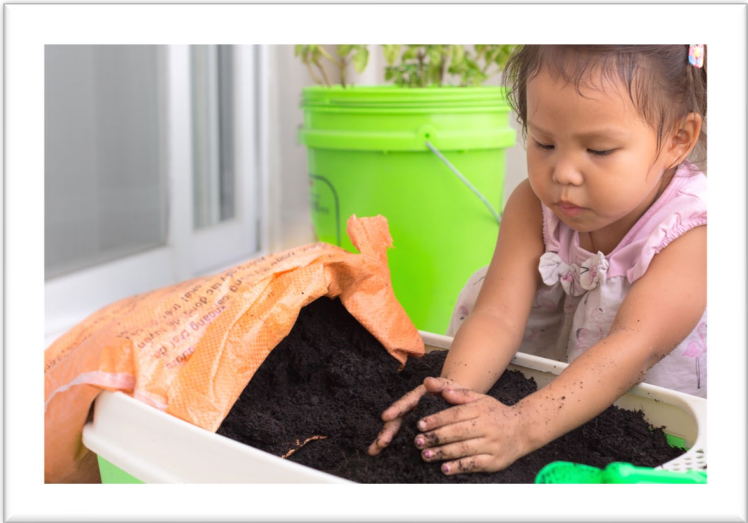
# Pre-K Expansion

# of Pre-K Grantees in FY24	# of Pre-K Grantees in FY25
53	75

**+ 42% increase**

# of Participating Family Child Care Programs in FY24	# of Participating Family Child Care Programs in FY25
44	58

**+ 32% increase**

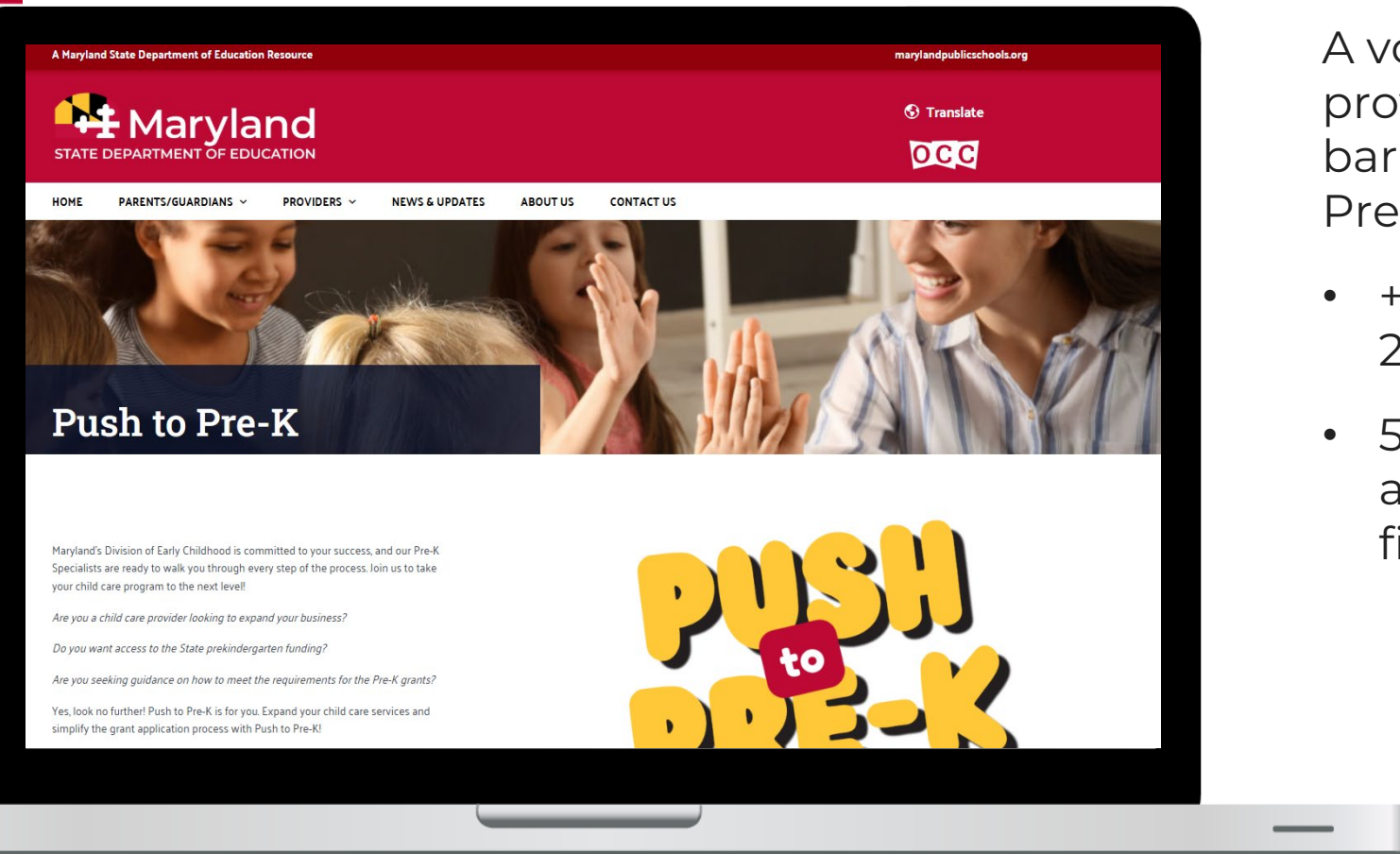




# Push to Pre-K– Education and Outreach

A voluntary initiative that helps child care providers build capacity and reduce barriers so they can apply for the State Pre-K Expansion Grant.

- + 751 new private provider seats in the 2024-2025 school year
- 56% increase in the number of applicants to pre-K expansion between fiscal years 2024 and 2025



# Judy Center Early Learning Hubs

Judy Center Early Learning Hubs are located in public schools and are designed to prepare children for success in school and life through multi-generational family engagement.



For the 2023-2024 school year, Judy Center Early Learning Hubs **provided services to 17,681 children across 86 sites.**



**New in FY25:** In-person Technical Assistance for Local Education Agencies (LEA).

Fiscal Year	Sites Added	Total # of Sites
FY 21	10	55
FY 22	10	65
FY 23	17	82
FY 24	4	86
FY 25	7	93
FY 26	18 (projected)	111
FY 27	18 (projected)	129
FY 28	18 (projected)	147
FY 29	18 (projected)	165
FY 30	18 (projected)	183

# Patty Center Family Support Services

Patty Centers provide services designed to:



Promote the optimal development of children birth-three



Help adults develop more effective parenting skills



Connect parents and children to community resources



Current # of Centers	FY 21 – FY 25 # of Centers Added	Expected Expansion by FY 30
24	8	43

# Increasing Access to High-Quality Early Care and Education

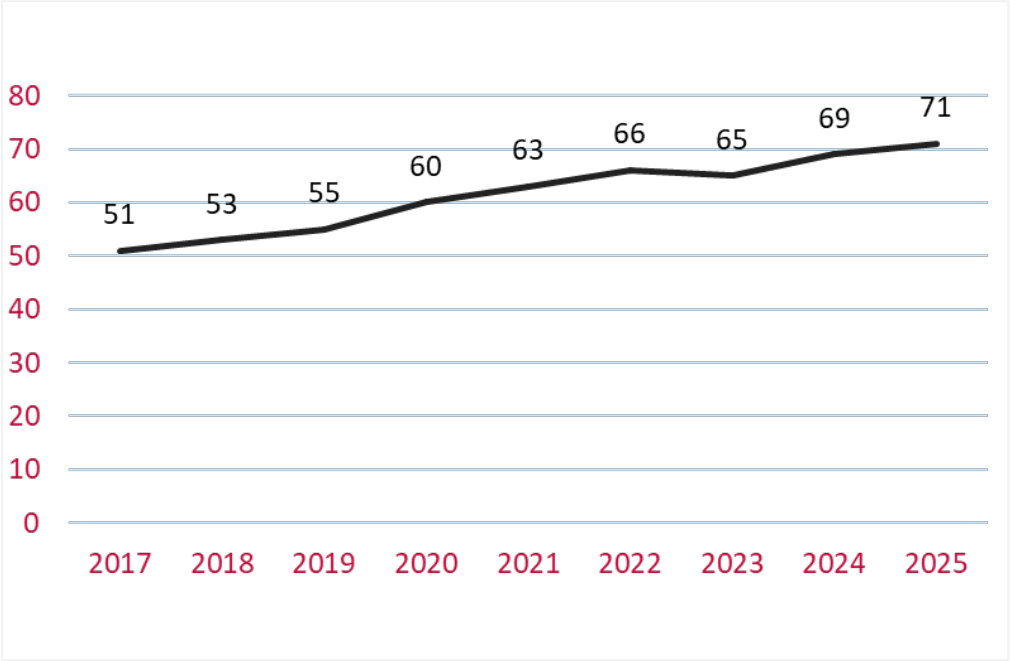
Since 2013, Maryland EXCELS has been building capacity for high-quality early care and education program across Maryland.

2017 Participation Rates	
Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes
71%	40%

Current Participation Rates	
Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes
83%	63%

**+ 39% increase**

Participation Rate by Year



Every year, participation has steadily increased.



# Increase in Maryland EXCELS by Public Pre-K Participation in Public Schools and Licensed Child Care

Year	Public Pre-K Programs with QR 4 or 5
2020	129
2021	128
2022	139
2023	187
2024	257
2025*	346

\*As of March 2025

March 2024 Total	217
March 2025 Total	346

**+ 59% increase**



**FY25 is seeing a large increase in Public Pre-K achievement.**

# Maryland EXCELS Bonus Distribution

Programs receive a bonus each time they improve their quality rating.

Bonus amounts range between \$1,000-\$13,500 depending on program type, capacity, and published quality rating.

Bonuses are spent at the program's discretion. They are frequently used to purchase new learning materials, update furniture, and pay for benefits for staff.



Month	Total # Bonuses	Total Amount
July-January 2024	680	\$2,269,800
July-January 2025	945	\$3,559,200

**+ 57% increase**

# Child Care Scholarships & Access to Quality Early Learning



# of Children that Received Scholarships  
Dec 2023-Mar 2024

25,937

# of Children that Received Scholarships  
Dec 2024-Mar 2025

32,137

**+ 24% increase**

Family Size	Initial Income Scale * Maximum Income	Continuation Income Scale** Maximum Income
	New applications	Changes/ Redeterminations
2	\$76,117	\$86,266
3	\$94,026	\$106,563
4	\$111,936	\$126,861
5	\$129,846	\$147,159
6	\$147,756	\$167,457
7	\$151,114	\$171,262
8	\$154,472	\$175,068
9	\$157,830	\$178,874
10	\$161,188	\$182,680
11	\$164,546	\$186,486
12	\$167,904	\$190,292

\*All eligibility/income documentation must be received and verified to make a determination for benefits. The application process may take up to 30 days.



# Accomplishments in Early Childhood

- Maryland was a pilot state for **Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood PLUS program** to provide fee assistance to military families, leading the nation in participation numbers and children served, along with Virginia.
- **Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund** has 422 students currently receiving tuition assistance in early childhood-related education programs.
- As of March 2025, **97 new licensed child care programs** opened this year, adding 1,521 child care spaces to meet the demand for care and early learning.
- Child care providers receiving Advance Payment through the Child Care Scholarship Program experienced a **shortened True-Up reconciliation process**, from three months to one month.



# Testimony: Child Care Scholarship

**Essence  
Vanlandingham**

# Hilary Roberts-King, Downtown Baltimore Child Care





# Aamil Saboor, Union Baptist Harvey Johnson Head Start

Family engagement and support

Hands-on, purposeful, and  
intentional experiences

Collaboration is the key



## Messages from Our External Stakeholders

- **Ruby Daniels**, Maryland State Family Child Care Association
- **Laura Weeldreyer**, Maryland Family Network
- **Rachel London**, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
- **Rosanna Espinoza-Thorndahl**, Latino Child Care Association of Maryland, Inc.
- **Christina Lopez**, Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children
- **Christina Peusch**, Maryland State Child Care Association