

EARLY LEARNING

PARTICIPATION IN QUALITY PRESCHOOLS

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Families + Schools + Community = Successful Kids

Families play a critical role in helping children learn. Their job as a child's first teacher is made easier through supportive community relationships. Tacoma Public Schools' four Early Learning Centers provide just that winning combination!

Hoyt, McCarver and Willard offer:

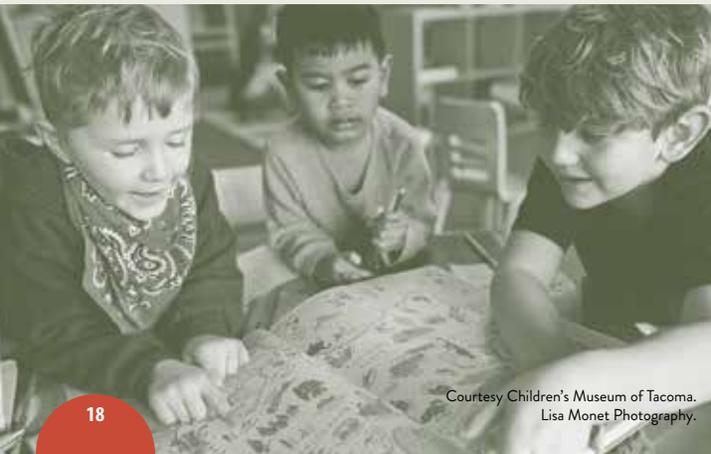
- Peer inclusion preschools for a mix of delayed and typically developing children
- Child Find screening program to identify disabilities and connect parents with resources

In addition, McCarver has two free, federally funded Head Start preschools for low-income families and offers services from Communities in Schools, Palmer Scholars, Tacoma Housing Authority, and Peace Community Center.

Madison is home to four Head Start classrooms, and, along with Willard, offers:

- Early Head Start home visit programs for children birth to three, with weekly play groups
- Play to Learn, a weekly parent and child play group from the Children's Museum of Tacoma

Children's Museum of Tacoma's Powered by Play Preschool for 2- and 3-year-olds is located at Hoyt and will be joined this fall by North Tacoma Cooperative Preschool, providing children and parents opportunities to build skills together.



Courtesy Children's Museum of Tacoma.
Lisa Monet Photography.

KEY FINDINGS

Enrollment Increases but Better Tracking Needed

TPS is exceptional in the early learning realm in that it offers six types of half-day preschool programs in 29 of its 35 elementary schools, as well as in its four early learning centers. The number of students attending TPS preschools continues to meet base capacity. In 2015-16, TPS served 1,533 students – 358 more than in 2010-11 – representing a 30% increase over the five years.

Hispanic and Multi-racial students have seen strong gains and now represent 47% of TPS preschool enrollments. In contrast, enrollment of Black students has continued a steep decline (from 329 in 2010-11 to 213 in 2015-16).

Children with access to high-quality early-childhood programs reap the benefits throughout their school years. But perhaps the most compelling reason to invest in early learning is that the effects have been found to be as far-reaching as better long-term health and higher lifetime earnings.

We are able to measure and track TPS preschool enrollment data but we do not have reliable citywide data on non-TPS preschool enrollment. However, we know that thanks to a 2012 Washington state quality rating called "Early Achievers" (EA), all licensed preschools are being held accountable to standards. EA offers providers coaching and resources to further support children's learning and development, not unlike Graduate Tacoma's own Building Connections professional development program. Last year, 80% of Pierce County licensed preschools participated in EA, 90% of which were in Tacoma.

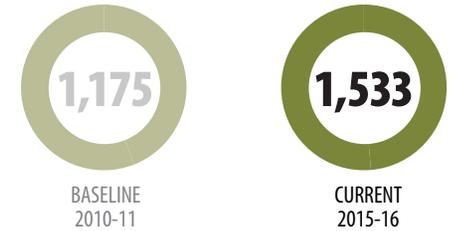


The preschool enrollment data has been refined. Previously, this data included students who were receiving support services but not participating in a TPS preschool. Effective in 2016, only those students who are enrolled in a TPS preschool are reported. Maximum capacity for TPS preschool slots currently is 1,628.

Sources: Tacoma Public School District, Child Care Resources

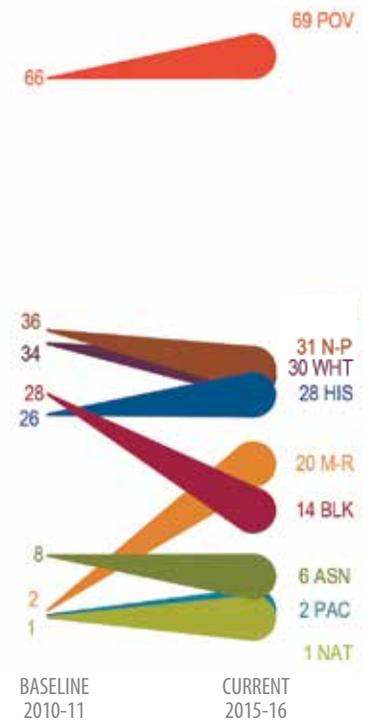
DATA DIVE

↑ ENROLLED IN TPS PRESCHOOLS



AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Increase the number of children attending Tacoma Public Schools or community child care/preschools that meet quality standards.

% BY POVERTY, RACE, & ETHNICITY



NOTE: Students in poverty comprise the lion's share of enrollments. This measure can be broken down further by race and ethnicity.