

SPOTLIGHT

Partnering for Preschoolers: TPS and CMT

In addition to its own preschools, TPS offers preschool space to community partners, expanding opportunities for our youngest children. The Children’s Museum of Tacoma (CMT) is a key partner, offering morning and afternoon sessions of its Powered by Play preschool for three- to five-year-olds at Hoyt Early Learning Center.

CMT’s Alyssa Tongue praises the “organic peer-learning opportunities” created by the co-location. “Our staff has joined Hoyt preschool teachers in professional development days,” she explains, “and we’ve shared our ideas about learning environments and multiple languages for communication and experimentation.”

When a CMT student demonstrates the need for additional services available through the District’s Child Find, the transition goes smoothly since all providers are in the same building.

CMT also brings its kindergarten readiness outreach program, Play to Learn, to the TPS Madison complex and Willard Early Learning Center. Parents or caregivers attend weekly Play 2 Learn sessions with their children. As they play together, adults gain insights into child development and learn new playful activities to stimulate curiosity and learning at home.



EARLY LEARNING

PARTICIPATION IN QUALITY PRESCHOOLS

KEY FINDINGS

Enrollment Up, but Tricky to Track

Measuring, tracking, and improving preschool enrollment is a community-wide responsibility. There are about 9,000 kids ages three to five in Tacoma. TPS offers free half-day preschool in 30 of 35 elementary schools. We can easily measure TPS half-day preschool enrollment and can obtain basic data on licensed preschool enrollment through ChildCare Resources. However, we do not have a robust system for tracking universal preschool enrollment that tells us how many children are attending what types of preschools in Tacoma and for how long. Many children attend unlicensed child care programs or are in child care provided by friends and family. These are the children we are unable to track at this time.

Data-Driven Takeaways

- TPS continues to meet base capacity, with enrollment up 38% over baseline (2010-11) – a net increase of 445 students.
- As of 2016-17, two of every three TPS preschoolers are living in poverty, down 13 points from the earliest year of disaggregation: 79% in 2011-12.
- By race, the proportion of Black students enrolled in TPS preschools is down 15% (from 28% in 2010-11 to just 13% in 2016-17). Meanwhile, enrollment of Multi-racial students is up 18% (from 1.8% to 20%).

ChildCare Resources (CCR) tracks licensed child care providers in Tacoma, but we are unable to disaggregate the data or provide anything other than available slots (capacity) at this time.

**NOTE: Many factors contribute to childcare enrollment and capacity. Further investigation is required to determine the reason(s) for the dramatic decrease we see here in non-TPS preschool capacity.*

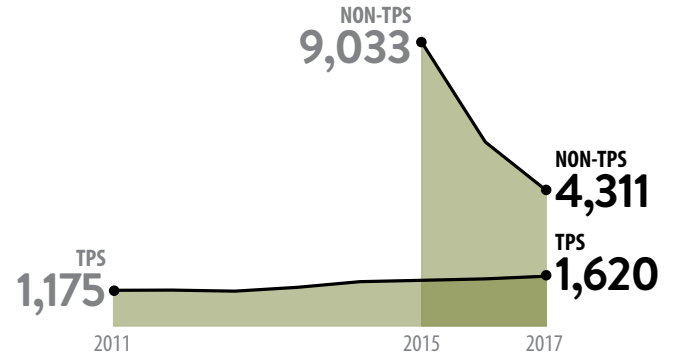
GET INVOLVED!

- **Spread** the word to parents and families that preschool enrollment starts each year in early March.
- **Connect** parents and families to providers in Tacoma to make sure preschoolers are enrolled: TacomaSchools.org/preschool or ChildCare.org.
- **Take** the 5210 Healthy Incentive Challenge with Multicare and Project Child Success: Kids get 5 fruits and veggies, 2 hours or less of screen time, 1 hour of daily exercise, 0 sugary beverages.

Data Sources: Child Care Resources; TPS

DATA TRENDS

TPS ENROLLMENT / NON-TPS CAPACITY*



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

TPS ENROLLMENT / NON-TPS CAPACITY BY ZIP CODE

