

The Universal Prekindergarten Cost Model for Florida – An Update

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Amendment to the State Constitution. Florida's Constitution Section 1: Public Education, paragraph (b) reads: "Every four-year-old child in Florida shall be provided by the State of Florida a high quality pre-kindergarten learning opportunity in the form of an early childhood development and education program which shall be voluntary, high quality, free, and delivered according to professionally accepted standards. An early childhood development program means an organized program designed to address and enhance each child's ability to make age appropriate progress in an appropriate range of settings in the development of language and cognitive capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory, and moral capacities through education in basic skills and such other skills as the Legislature may determine appropriate."

The Policy Group for Florida's Families and Children strongly urges Florida to invest the state's resources wisely in a quality prekindergarten program for our four-year-olds and their families. Utilizing the cost estimation work completed in Illinois, Ohio, and South Carolina; program information from Georgia; and recommendations from the Institute for Women's Policy Research, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Center for the Study of Social Policy, The Policy Group has developed the cost estimations below and recommends funding of the mixed-day, mix of credential option (outlined) with plans to move toward having all lead teachers with baccalaureate degrees. Funding a quality system will assist families, communities, and our state in realizing the best outcomes for Florida's children. **The following estimates of the costs for serving Florida's four-year olds shown in the table below are based on planning for and funding 1:10 teacher-to-child ratios with a maximum group size of 20, qualified and educated teachers, a choice for parents of a full-day or part-day program, and accountability measures and systems.**

Cost Options for Universal Prekindergarten in Florida		
Program Length of Day	Lead Teacher Qualifications (All Assistant Teachers will have CDAs)	Cost Per Child
Full-day Model (6-hours of instruction for all children)	All Lead Teachers with BA Degrees	\$6,238
	Lead Teachers with a Mix of Credentials *	\$5,454
Variable-day Model (2/3 choose 6-hours and 1/3 choose 3-hours of instruction)	All Lead Teachers with BA Degrees	\$5,513
	Lead Teachers with a Mix of Credentials <i>(2/3 choose 6-hours @ \$5,454 per child, 1/3 choose 3-hours @ \$3,649 per child)</i>	\$4,859
Part-day Model (3-hours of instruction for all children)	All Lead Teachers with BA Degrees	\$4,040
	Lead Teachers with a Mix of Credentials	\$3,649

* Mix of Credentials reflects the current credentials of the existing workforce: 20% baccalaureate degrees, 20% associate degrees, and 60% with Child Development Associates.

Note: Calculations do not include costs for comprehensive services or the cost of care beyond 180 days a year for the indicated hours of instruction (3 or 6 hours per day).

The Policy Group for Florida's Families and Children recommends that Florida's Voluntary Universal Prekindergarten be funded to ensure a high quality system that provides parents with a choice of length of day (i.e., 3 hours or 6 hours to accommodate parents and their children's early learning needs) and the most qualified and credentialed teacher workforce, recognizing that initially Florida will have to start with a mix of credentials. Incorporating direct program costs, outcome and accountability costs, governance and administrative costs, and facility costs, **the estimated cost for this starting point is \$4,859 per child.**

The population estimate of the number of 4-year-olds in Florida in 2005, developed by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature is 220,853. Using the recommendation of \$4,859 cost per child, the following are estimates for the ranges of cost of UPK in 2005:

Participation Rate**	Number of Children	Total Cost
55%	121,469	\$590,228,621
67%	147,972	\$719,005,775
70%	154,597	\$751,200,063

** Participation rates were chosen based on 55% - Florida Legislative Staffs estimates, 67% based upon an Oct. 2004 statewide poll of parents, and 70% based upon the experience in Georgia's universal prekindergarten.

UPK Cost Model Detail

Legend for Cost Detail Cost for 147,972 Children [67%] [Cost per Child]	Full-day Model/ [6 hours]	Full-day Model [6 hours]	Variable-day Model [2/3 for 6 hours, 1/3 for 3 hours]	Variable-day Model [2/3 for 6 hours, 1/3 for 3 hours]	Part-day Model (3 hours)	Part-day Model (3 hours)
	Lead Teachers with BAs	Lead Teachers with Mix of Credentials	Lead Teachers with BAs	Lead Teachers with Mix of Credentials	Lead Teachers with BAs	Lead Teachers with Mix of Credentials
Direct Program — Provider Payments						
Personnel Costs	\$439,315,625 [\$2,969]	\$332,030,125 [\$2,244]	\$366,829,767 [\$2,479]	\$277,238,971 [\$1,874]	\$219,661,512 [\$1,484]	\$166,018,762 [\$1,122]
Operating Costs	\$318,139,800 [\$2,150]	\$318,139,800 [\$2,150]	\$291,356,868 [\$1,969]	\$291,356,868 [\$1,969]	\$236,755,200 [\$1,600]	\$236,755,200 [\$1,600]
<i>Sub-total Direct Program Costs</i>	<i>\$757,455,425</i> [\$5,119]	<i>\$650,169,925</i> [\$4,394]	<i>\$658,186,635</i> [\$4,448]	<i>\$568,595,839</i> [\$3,843]	<i>\$456,416,712</i> [\$3,084]	<i>\$402,773,962</i> [\$2,722]
Outcome and Accountability						
Consultation and Technical Assistance	\$23,676,800 [\$160]	\$23,676,800 [\$160]	\$23,676,800 [\$160]	\$23,676,800 [\$160]	\$23,676,800 [\$160]	\$23,676,800 [\$160]
Professional Development	\$11,838,400 [\$80]	\$11,838,400 [\$80]	\$11,838,400 [\$80]	\$11,838,400 [\$80]	\$11,838,400 [\$80]	\$11,838,400 [\$80]
Program Evaluation	\$39,990,027 [\$270]	\$34,625,749 [\$234]	\$35,026,584 [\$237]	\$30,547,044 [\$206]	\$24,938,088 [\$169]	\$22,255,950 [\$150]
<i>Sub-total Outcomes & Accountability Costs</i>	<i>\$75,505,227</i> [\$510]	<i>\$70,140,949</i> [\$474]	<i>\$70,541,784</i> [\$477]	<i>\$66,062,244</i> [\$446]	<i>\$60,453,288</i> [\$409]	<i>\$57,771,150</i> [\$390]
Governance and Administration						
State and Local Administration	\$23,994,014 [\$162]	\$20,775,449 [\$140]	\$21,015,950 [\$142]	\$18,328,227 [\$124]	\$14,962,853 [\$101]	\$13,353,570 [\$90]
Monitoring	\$6,829,846 [\$46]	\$6,829,846 [\$46]	\$6,829,846 [\$46]	\$6,829,846 [\$46]	\$6,829,846 [\$46]	\$6,829,846 [\$46]
<i>Sub-total Governance and Administration Costs</i>	<i>\$30,823,860</i> [\$208]	<i>\$27,605,295</i> [\$186]	<i>\$27,845,796</i> [\$188]	<i>\$25,158,073</i> [\$170]	<i>\$21,792,699</i> [\$147]	<i>\$20,183,416</i> [\$136]
Facilities						
Start-up costs [non-recurring]	\$59,192,000 [\$400]	\$59,192,000 [\$400]	\$59,192,000 [\$400]	\$59,192,000 [\$400]	\$59,192,000 [\$400]	\$59,192,000 [\$400]
Total for 147,972 Children (67% participation rate)	\$922,976,512 [\$6,238]	\$807,108,169 [\$5,454]	\$815,766,215 [\$5,513]	\$719,008,156 [\$4,859]	\$597,854,699 [\$4,040]	\$539,920,528 [\$3,649]

The Policy Group for Florida's Families and Children is an independent, non-partisan policy research organization composed of local and state leaders who are working together to enhance the well-being of Florida's families and children. The vision of *The Policy Group* is that, together, we will ensure a generation of young people who grow up to be responsible adults – ready, willing and able to contribute to self, to family and to their community. For additional information about *The Policy Group*, please visit our web-site at www.policygroup.org. You may also contact the Executive Director as follows: Barbara F. Foster, Ph.D., 1310 Cross Creek Circle, Suite A, Tallahassee, FL 32301, Telephone: 850-921-9111, Fax: 850-487-0045, email: policygroup@aol.com, <http://www.policygroup.org>.

Additional information regarding *The Universal Prekindergarten Cost Model for Florida* is available at <http://www.policygroup.org>. Look for *Estimating the Cost of Voluntary Universal Prekindergarten in Florida-Calculations* and *The Cost of Voluntary Universal Prekindergarten – Working Papers*.