

Prekindergarten Education

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for Children and Families**

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Vermont's Universal Prekindergarten

- Publicly Funded
 - A minimum of ten (10) hours of publicly-funded prekindergarten education 35 weeks per year
- Inclusive
 - 3, 4, and 5 year-olds not enrolled in kindergarten
- Portable
 - Parent chooses where to enroll
 - Funding follows the child
- "Mixed Delivery"
 - Public Schools
 - Community-Based Private and Nonprofit Programs
 - Child care centers
 - Head Starts
 - Family child care homes

Jointly Administered by AOE Early Education and AHS DCF Child Development Division

Designed to leverage strength and systems at each Agency

- Jointly work to set policy, support implementation, monitor compliance, and improve practice
- AOE leads: Program Approval, Child-level assessments (GOLD, Ready4K!), Early Childhood Special Education, Early MTSS, District-level Data Collection
- CDD leads: Child Care Licensing, STARS quality improvement and recognition system, SPARQS quality coaching, Head Start collaboration
- Both provide technical assistance, professional development

Overview

CDD and AOE share the goal of ensuring all Vermont children benefit from high-quality prekindergarten education. Vermont's UPK program has strong results, and we are committed to building from those strengths to improve consistency, efficiency, and effectiveness.

- Act 73 of 2025
- UPK Systems Alignment Framework, project funded by PDG B-5 2026
- Considerations for UPK Design

Resources:

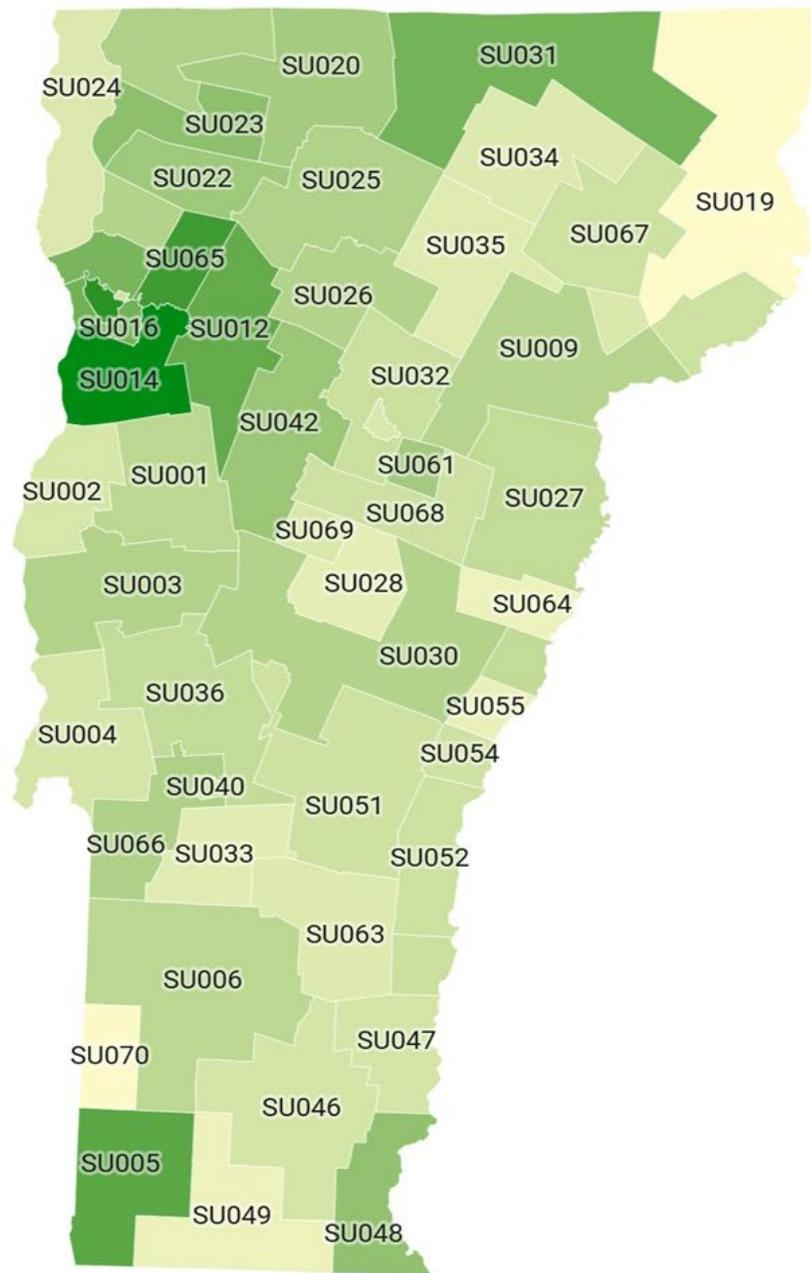
- [Prekindergarten Education Implementation Committee Report](#)
- [Joint Report on Elevating Status of Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Joint Report on Universal Prekindergarten 2024](#) (2025 to be released soon)

Act 73 and PreK

- Act 73 of 2025 advances a "cradle-to-career" vision for education, aiming to establish a robust, equitable, and high-quality, publicly funded prekindergarten system.
- Act 73 has the potential to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of UPK programs by providing district-level coordination and support, improving resource allocation, and ensuring consistent quality and governance across all prekindergarten settings.
- There are key decisions about Governance and Funding overall that need to be made first to provide clarity on how to adjust Vermont's prekindergarten program.



PreK Enrollment by SU (SY25)



SU010	SU Name	PreK Enrollment SY25
SU001	MT ABRAHAM	143
SU002	ADDISON NORTHWEST	92
SU003	ADDISON CENTRAL	164
SU004	SLATE VALLEY	96
SU005	SOUTHWEST VERMONT	332
SU006	BENNINGTON RUTLAND	142
SU007	COLCHESTER	274
SU009	CALEDONIA CENTRAL	154
SU010	MILTON	156
SU011	ST JOHNSBURY	83
SU012	MT MANSFIELD	301
SU014	CHAMPLAIN VALLEY	429
SU015	BURLINGTON	416
SU016	SOUTH BURLINGTON	292
SU017	WINOOSKI	123
SU019	ESSEX NORTH	17
SU020	FRANKLIN NORTHEAST	196
SU021	MISSISQUOI	168
SU022	FRANKLIN WEST	208
SU023	MAPLE RUN	239
SU024	GRAND ISLE	85
SU025	LAMOILLE NORTH	176
SU026	LAMOILLE SOUTH	162
SU027	ORANGE EAST	145
SU028	ORANGE SOUTHWEST	62
SU030	WHITE RIVER VALLEY	163
SU031	NORTH COUNTRY	274
SU032	WASHINGTON CENTRAL	113
SU033	MILL RIVER	70
SU034	ORLEANS CENTRAL	77
SU035	ORLEANS SOUTHWEST	78
SU036	RUTLAND NORTHEAST	133
SU040	RUTLAND CITY	153
SU042	HARWOOD	201
SU046	WINDHAM CENTRAL	103
SU047	WINDHAM NORTHEAST	95
SU048	WINDHAM SOUTHEAST	254
SU049	WINDHAM SOUTHWEST	50
SU051	MOUNTAIN VIEWS	110
SU052	WINDSOR SOUTHEAST	117
SU054	HARTFORD	107
SU055	SAU 70	52
SU056	SPRINGFIELD	127
SU061	BARRE	205
SU063	TWO RIVERS	82
SU064	RIVENDELL INTERSTATE	48
SU065	ESSEX WESTFORD	363
SU066	GREATER RUTLAND COUNTY	180
SU067	KINGDOM EAST	119
SU068	CENTRAL VERMONT	114
SU069	MONTPELIER ROXBURY	83
SU070	LINCOLN	20



JFO Funding Study due December 1, 2026

- **Act 73 of 2025, Section 45a:**

(a) The Joint Fiscal Office shall contract with one or more contractors with expertise in Vermont's education funding system to recommend updates to the cost-factor foundation formula created by this act to move from special education weights based on disability categories to a reliance on the provision of special education services and to update any other weights determined to be empirically necessary for an adequate and equitable education, taking into account the cost savings generated by new, larger consolidated school districts.

UPK Systems Alignment, funded by PDGB-5 2026

CDD, AOE, and BBF are in the process of selecting consultants to lead UPK Systems Alignment Framework engagement between April and December 2026. (Grant received December 2025, ends December 2026) The core goals are to:

1. Improve access by ensuring UPK policies and supports work consistently for families in every region and across program types.
2. Clarify and align UPK governance and expectations across agencies and settings so public schools, community-based programs, family child care, and Head Start partners operate within a coherent statewide framework.
3. Reduce administrative burden and duplication by identifying and addressing unnecessary differences in oversight, monitoring, and reporting.
4. Create the foundation for shared UPK data governance and integration so Vermont can track participation, quality, and outcomes across the mixed-delivery system using consistent definitions and low-burden processes.

Additional Considerations in UPK design

- Interaction with Head Start program and funding model, ~\$28M of federal funding for highest need children
- Early Childhood Special Education is legally mandated through LEA starting at 3rd birthday
- Impacts on early childhood education ecosystem, especially infant-toddler care
- Funding across settings
- Availability of afterschool or summer care for PreK children