Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) is the expansion of the state’s mixed delivery system to meet the early education needs of three-and four-year-old children and their families, including Transitional Kindergarten which will be available for free to all four-year-olds by 2025-2026.

UPK is an essential part of transforming California’s schools and giving every student in California a great start.
UPK Planning and Implementation Supports

UPK can serve as a bridge between early childhood and TK 12 systems to increase students’ readiness for school and schools’ readiness for students so that all children thrive in school and in life.

Parent Choice

Developmental Growth and Thriving

Successful transitions to school

Strong foundational skills in elementary school

College and career success

Early Learning and Care System

TK 12 System

Expanded Learning

Private

Head Start

TK

CSPP

UPK
Grant Information

Funding Information

• Funding formula is based on three aspects:
  – The total number of three- and four-year-old children in the county
  – The number of three- and four-year-olds not in subsidized care
  – The number of three- and four-year-olds with exceptional needs

• $18.3 million annually for three fiscal years starting in 2022–2023

• Santa Barbara County was allocated $353,788
# Required Activities

- Form a workgroup
- Plan for UPK options in a mixed delivery system aligned with Title 5 standards
- Plan for increasing inclusion of children with exceptional needs in UPK
- Plan for workforce development
- Provide outreach and enrollment services to families
- Partner to plan for, align, and coordinate activities with LEAs
- Partner with tribes as sovereign nations
- Create a county-wide UPK Plan by June 2026

# Allowable Uses of Funds

- Assessing the parental preferences and the need for access to available high-quality UPK
- Establishing partnerships with providers, inclusive preschool programs and multilingual programs
- Coordinating with special education local and regional partners
- Partnering with the local Quality Counts California to support the workforce
- Facilitation and coordination of the discussions of the local workgroup
UPK Local Level Workgroup

• Grantees will be expected to engage in community-level coordination and planning with entities who make up the county's mixed-delivery system

• The workgroup will support the grantee in:
  o Coordination planning for UPK expansion in the mixed delivery system
  o Coordinating the preparation of the Plan

Membership of UPK Local Level Workgroup

• Local Planning Councils
• County offices of education
• School districts
• Charter schools offering TK
• R&R Agencies
• Alternative payment programs
• First 5
• State preschool programs
• Tribal preschool programs

• Private, center-based child care preschool providers
• Family child care providers
• Educators
• Union representatives
• Head Start
• Faculty at local institutions of higher education focusing on child development
Guidance for UPK Local Level Workgroup

- Utilize meeting spaces that are already taking place

- Utilize the varied perspectives required to collaborate and build out your county's vision for UPK

- More than only a page with collaboration signatures – true ongoing collaborative meetings

SBCEO along with community partners will support families, facilities through the following:

- Community Resources on Family Options and Quality
- Family and Educator Workgroups
- Study of UPK impacts on CSPP and Private facilities
- Study of UPK impacts on LEAs
For Families:

- **Bilingual resources regarding UPK options and quality**
  - Distributed directly to community partners
  - Distributed through partnerships with local libraries
  - Distributed through radio ads

- **Facilitated family discussions**
  - Family perspectives on UPK:
    - Choice of care
    - What does high quality mean to you?
    - Hopes, dreams, aspirations
For Facilities

• **Study on impact of UPK**
  - Unique needs of Private vs CSPP programs
  - Impacts on LEAs
  - Will incorporate questions about facilities, inclusion, family choice

• UPK resources distributed to community partners

• CCPC ad-hoc committee and UPK Community of Practice

UPK Community of Practice

• A countrywide network of district leaders, administrators, & community-based leaders

• Build Relationships

• Share implementation successes & progress.
UPK Teachers Collaborative

- An open forum for Preschool, TK, & Kindergarten teachers
- Discuss and share relevant best practices, research, resources, and new learning.

This is an exciting new direction for California, but implementation will require time and grace, as multiple systems shift to meet the challenge.