



CLEVELAND UNIVERSITY **HEIGHTS** CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Treasurer's Report
"3 Things"
Preschool Funding
3/3/26

CH-UH Strategic Plan



Goal 5, Objective 3:

Inform and educate all stakeholders regarding District finances and school funding in Ohio.



#1 -How Preschool is Funded in Ohio

- ❖ There is no automatic per-pupil funding tied to enrollment as there is in K-12th grade
- ❖ Instead, funding comes through targeted early childhood programs, primarily:
 - Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grant (income-based)
 - Preschool special education funding (IDEA based for students with identified disabilities)
- ❖ Funding is awarded through grants and approved slots.
 - The state determines how many funded seats each provider may operate
 - Funding levels are capped and subject to biennial state budget decisions
- ❖ Preschool access depends on:
 - Grant approval
 - Available funded slots
 - Program capacity and staffing



#2-Eligibility Updates and Funding Limits

❖ What Changed?

- **Cuyahoga County Universal Pre-K (UPK)** updated eligibility guidelines to include more families countywide.
- Ohio updated **Early Childhood Education (ECE)** eligibility guidelines to expand the number of families who may be eligible to be served.
- Consistent with Ohio Department of Children and Youth guidance, **eligibility does not guarantee a funded seat**, as access depends on **available funding, approved slots, and program capacity**.
- All Applications for early childhood services are first evaluated for PFCC eligibility

❖ Expanded eligibility means more families may apply, but funding remains limited.

- Eligibility updates intended to broaden access may make it more difficult for districts to fill seats
- Funding levels have not increased at the same pace as eligibility.
- Districts must manage preschool access based on approved slots and available resources.



#3 – Preschool Funding at CH-UH

- ❖ **CH-UH uses multiple funding sources and partnerships to serve families responsibly.**

CH-UH combines:

- **State ECE Grant funding (income-based early childhood education)**
- **Preschool special education funding** (federal and state support for students with disabilities)
- **Cuyahoga County Universal Pre-K (UPK)** (partnership through Invest in Children)

- ❖ This layered funding approach allows CH-UH to:

- **Serve children with diverse needs**
- **Maintain high program standards, staffing ratios, and compliance requirements**
- **Leverage external funding before using local dollars**
- **Expand access responsibly without creating unsustainable financial commitments**

CH-UH remains committed to early childhood education while balancing long-term fiscal stability.



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Questions

<https://www.chuh.org/departments/finance/public-school-funding>