



# On My Way Pre-K October 2020 Report



Office of Early  
Childhood and Out-  
of-School Learning



## Introduction

Since 2014, The Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning, alongside its Early Learning partners and under the direction of the Family and Social Services Administration, works in administering the State of Indiana's preschool pilot program, On My Way Pre-K.

On My Way Pre-K awards grants to 4-year-olds from low-income families so they may have access to high-quality Pre-K programs the year before they begin kindergarten. Eligible families may use the grant at any approved On My Way Pre-K program. Approved programs may be located in a public or private school, licensed child care center, licensed home or registered ministry, as long as that program meets the quality requirements and is registered as an On My Way Pre-K provider. Families may choose from a program that is full- or part-day, as well as from programs that end with the school year or continue through the summer.

In May of 2019, Governor Holcomb signed into law HB1628, requiring yearly reporting of enrollment and fiscal expenditures for On My Way Pre-K. Below are the three requested reports:

### *Enrollment*

1. The total number of children who received a grant under the prekindergarten pilot program for the immediately preceding state fiscal year (2019–20), disaggregated by county:

COUNTY	GRANTS
Adams	3
Allen	222
Bartholomew	79
Blackford	1
Boone	6
Brown	10
Carroll	1
Cass	11
Clark	30
Clay	2
Clinton	1
Daviess	4
Dearborn	1
Decatur	1
DeKalb	9
Delaware	109
Dubois	2
Elkhart	108
Floyd	50

COUNTY	GRANTS
Franklin	2
Fulton	1
Gibson	4
Grant	106
Greene	1
Hamilton	24
Hancock	7
Harrison	43
Hendricks	19
Henry	1
Howard	78
Huntington	15
Jackson	58
Jefferson	8
Jennings	10
Johnson	41
Knox	1
Kosciusko	13
Lagrange	3

COUNTY	GRANTS
Lake	297
LaPorte	19
Madison	92
Marion	1077
Marshall	18
Miami	8
Monroe	89
Montgomery	3
Morgan	5
Noble	6
Owen	1
Parke	1
Perry	1
Porter	20
Posey	3
Putnam	4
Randolph	1
Ripley	3
Scott	2

COUNTY	GRANTS
Shelby	1
Spencer	2
St. Joseph	195
Starke	3
Steuben	1
Tippecanoe	147
Tipton	2
Vanderburgh	317
Vermillion	1
Vigo	85
Wabash	1
Warrick	15
Wayne	6
Wells	1
White	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3517</b>



### *Fiscal*

2. The total amount of funds budgeted for and spent under the prekindergarten pilot program during the immediately preceding state fiscal year:

The total amount budgeted and spent for Pre K in SFY20 was \$24,957,231.03.

- \$4,406,934.38 of 100% state funds were spent for admin costs.
- \$20,550,296.65 of both federal and state funds was spent for direct services. \$12,686,914.11 of this amount was state funding for each grant.

Please note, there will be some adjustments for the following two reasons below. This won't change the overall expenditures for the state fiscal year, but it will change the state and federal funding split.

- Due to CARE funding for Q2 and Q3, the FMAP was change for matching funds.
- Need to move direct service expenditures from 100% state funds to matching funds in order to meet our matching requirements.

3. The balance remaining in the pilot fund at the end of the immediately preceding state fiscal year.

At the end of the SFY20, there was an estimate of \$4,911,221 balance remaining.

## **Longitudinal Study**

For the past five years, in partnership with Purdue University, OECOSL has conducted a longitudinal study of three cohorts of children in the On My Way Pre-K program. This annual report also summarizes the study's implementation approach and program progress for child outcomes, Pre-K classroom quality and family outcomes.

As the first cohort in the longitudinal study was scheduled to conclude upon completion of third grade at the end of the 2019–2020 school year with comparisons of third grade assessments, the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled all spring 2020 assessments and permission was given to collect fourth grade assessment scores in spring of 2021 instead.



## *Summarized Findings from Longitudinal Study:*

### *Children's Outcomes*

1. When data from all three cohorts were combined, results from analyses indicated that the OMW program benefited children the most in terms of their literacy and general school readiness skills. Specifically, children in OMW experienced significantly greater gains in their literacy skills and general school readiness skills compared to children in the comparison group from the fall of Pre-K to the fall of kindergarten, and these effects became even stronger at the end of kindergarten.
2. Results suggest that OMW may also have an effect on attendance rates in elementary school. For example, OMW children had fewer unexcused absences relative to comparison children in grade 1.
3. Results indicate that there OMW program participation may be related to fewer discipline records in elementary school, as well as fewer days of school missed due to disciplinary actions.

### *Pre-K Classroom Quality*

1. There is clear evidence that across all three cohorts, children in OMW programs are experiencing higher classroom quality as indicated by higher average scores on the CLASS relative to children in comparison classrooms. This is particularly true with regard to the Emotional Support CLASS domain that showed the greatest average difference between OMW and comparison classrooms. These higher CLASS scores are in line with the goal of OMW to provide higher quality classroom environments for children from low-income backgrounds.
2. CLASS assessments of OMW Pre-K classrooms continue to suggest current programs need additional technical assistance in the area of teacher-child interaction quality and organization. These findings will continue to be addressed within the state's quality rating system, Paths to QUALITY™ to ensure rich and challenging child interactions with teachers who are prepared to effectively implement a developmentally-appropriate, evidence-based preschool curriculum.

### *Family Outcomes*

1. The majority of parents across all cohorts reported benefits of enrolling their child in OMW for their own self-sufficiency (e.g., enabled them to get a job, increase their work or school hours or start schooling or other training).
2. OMW Pre-K was a first introduction to preschool for many of the participating children across all cohorts.
3. The majority of parents across all cohorts reported being "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with OMW Pre-K.



## Summary

Indiana's On My Way Pre-K has grown from a beginning pilot of five counties serving some small cohorts in January 2015 to a statewide program for the 2019–2020 prekindergarten year. With a robust 969 high quality programs in 71 counties in the fall of 2020, On My Way Pre-K has grown to provide a total of almost 14,000 low-income 4-year-old children a better start to their academic journey. Our research shows each year that while OMWPK children enter their prekindergarten program with skill levels below their typically developing peers, they finish strong alongside or sometimes even exceeding their peers—starting them on a successful social and academic journey as they enter kindergarten. And along with the great strides we've seen in the children's progress through the prekindergarten year, the impact has been felt by both the families and the communities where these children attend.

Since the inception of On My Way Pre-K, OECOSL has contractually employed OMWPK County Project Managers to help communities grow and understand the benefits of OMWPK for their families and communities. Providing another layer of support and connection for these families has helped many go back to school, find a new or better jobs working longer hours or be connected to the services they need within their communities. Many parents/guardians have been connected with "Counseling to Career" programs and English as a Second Language classes they would not have been aware of if they had not applied for On My Way Pre-K for their child. As we look to provide Healthy Opportunities Indiana, these connections and supports are crucial in helping provide a foundation for each child's academic success, health and general well-being.

And even though we ended the 2019–20 OMWPK year in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic, surveys to participating families still found almost 90% of families reported their On My Way Pre-K experience as "Extremely Pleased" (72%) or "Moderately Pleased" (17.6%) and feeling better prepared to send their child to kindergarten "Definitely Yes" (76%) and "Probably Yes" (13.9%). A very high percentage also felt OMWPK helped prepare their children socially and academically to be successful in kindergarten. FSSA and OECOSL continues to appreciate the participation of those providers and families in the program who have assisted the agency in learning more about the services being provided.