



Memorandum

FROM: Office of the State Superintendent of Education
TO: Agency Stakeholders
DATE: June 13, 2012
RE: Confirming Official Data, D.C. Pre-K Access is Universal

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is committed to improving the universal quality, access, capacity, service, and early learning for every child of pre-K age in the District of Columbia, every single day and from cradle to career.

And regardless of income, **if you are a parent of a District of Columbia child of pre-k age and wish to enroll them in a pre-k program, a pre-k slot is universally available in the District of Columbia for you.**

As cited under [District legislation](#) introduced by then-chairman Vincent Gray and completed under his Mayoral Administration, ‘universal pre-k’ is described as the availability of pre-k program slots for all children of pre-k age whose parents chose to enroll them. Universal Pre-K was the mandate given and Universal Pre-K is the goal accomplished, years ahead of schedule and in full compliance.

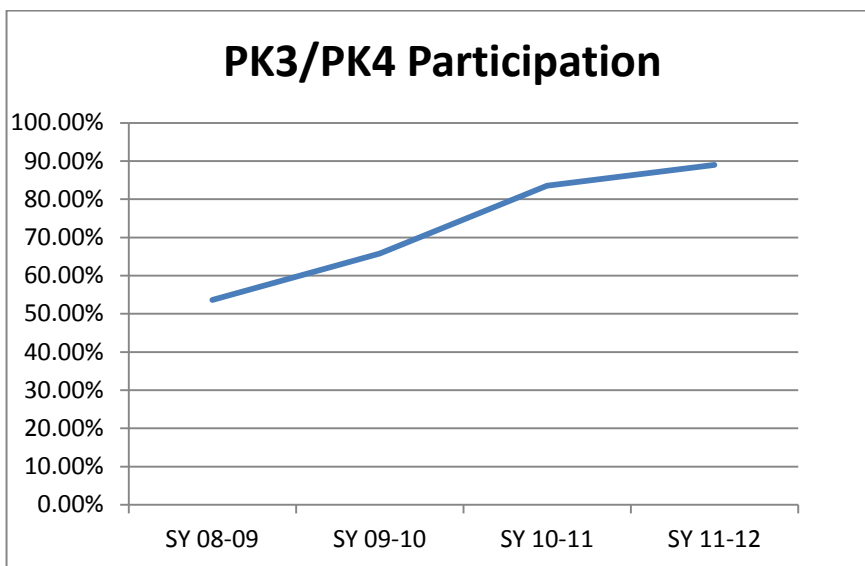
However, [recent reports have disputed this claim](#), so while OSSE applauds media efforts to hold our agency accountable and investigate pre-k capacity and enrollment throughout the District, we must also insist the data on which we are measured is timely, accurate and factual.

As such, and for the sake of clarification and transparency, OSSE has published year-by-year District pre-k enrollment data spanning from 2008-2009 – the year pre-k legislation



was introduced – to 2011-2012.

OSSE is proud to announce that **from 2008 to 2012, the District of Columbia has experienced a 35% increase in pre-k enrollment and to date, 89% of District 3 and 4-year-olds participate in pre-k programs citywide.** Results are based on annual enrollment audit summaries and annual [OSSE ChildTrends Reports](#), and compared against annual [U.S. Census State Characteristics](#).



	SY 08-09	SY 09-10	SY 10-11	SY 11-12
PK3/PK4 Participation	53.64%	65.82%	83.54%	88.98%

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED TABLES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

As the attached tables and confirmed data demonstrate, pre-k enrollment in the District of Columbia is stronger than ever. Combined with Mayor Gray's *Early Success* and *Raise DC* initiatives, this is an amazing time to be involved in early childhood education, and OSSE is dedicated to sharing best practices and coordinating data to both ensure and validate the access, enrollment, development and protection for the District's youngest

learners just beginning their educational journey.

Our vision is for every child in the District of Columbia to receive excellent quality care from birth, and for every Licensed Childcare Center, Home, Community-Based Organization and Local Education Agency to operate under unified conditions and quality established by OSSE and befitting our standing as a national leader in early childhood education.

And as the state education agency for the District of Columbia, our **promise is that our vision will support the Mayor** and support the communities for which we all live, work, and serve.

And a result, District parents will have the comfort of knowing that OSSE doing the work necessary to expand access and raise early cognitive achievement throughout the District of Columbia.