



WHAT IS UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN?



- f* Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) refers to state government-funded preschool programs that are free for those who attend it.
- f* As of July 1, 2021, New York State will be investing \$970 million into state-administered Prekindergarten programs.
- f* This figure will most likely be \$1 billion by the end of the 2023-2024 school year due to expansion grants.



2021-

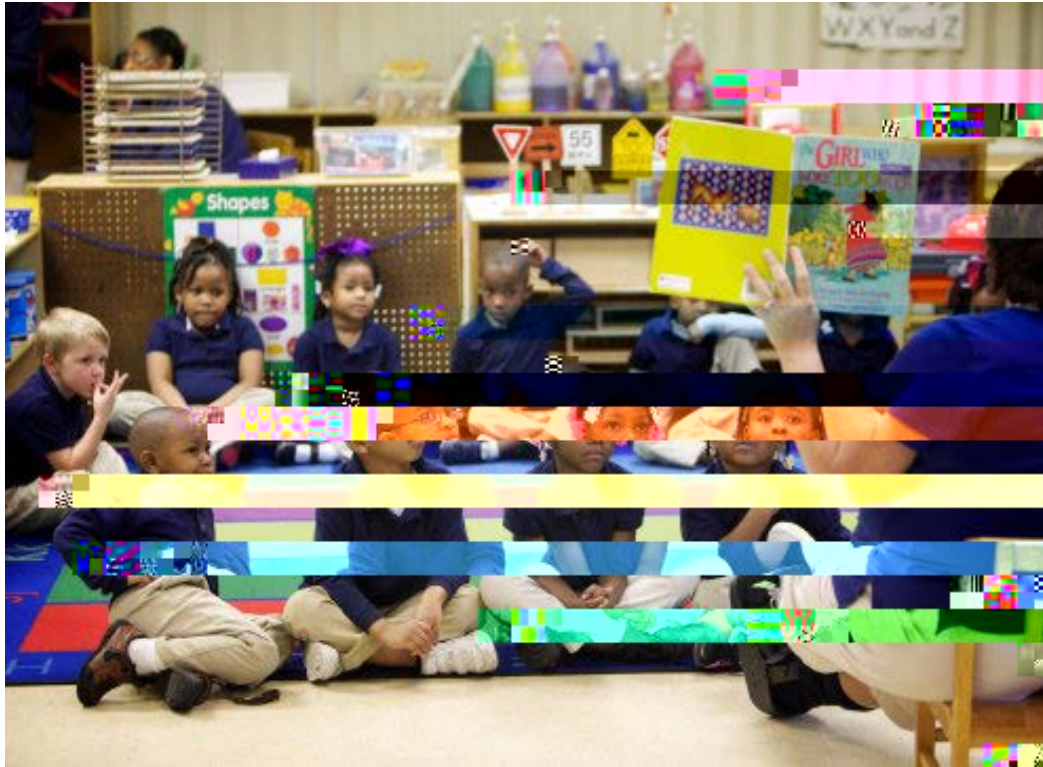
\$90 MILLION 2021-2022 EXPANSION FUNDING



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- f* The \$90 million UPK expansion is included on the state run. The funding was allocated to 232 districts across New York State.
- f* The per pupil amount is the formula for foundation aid per pupil but not less than an amount as of 2006-2007, which bottoms out at \$5,400.
- f* ARPA funds will support the \$90 million in additional funding to school districts. By the 2024-2025 school year, it will be funded by state dollars.

WHAT DO NEW DISTRICTS NEED TO KNOW?

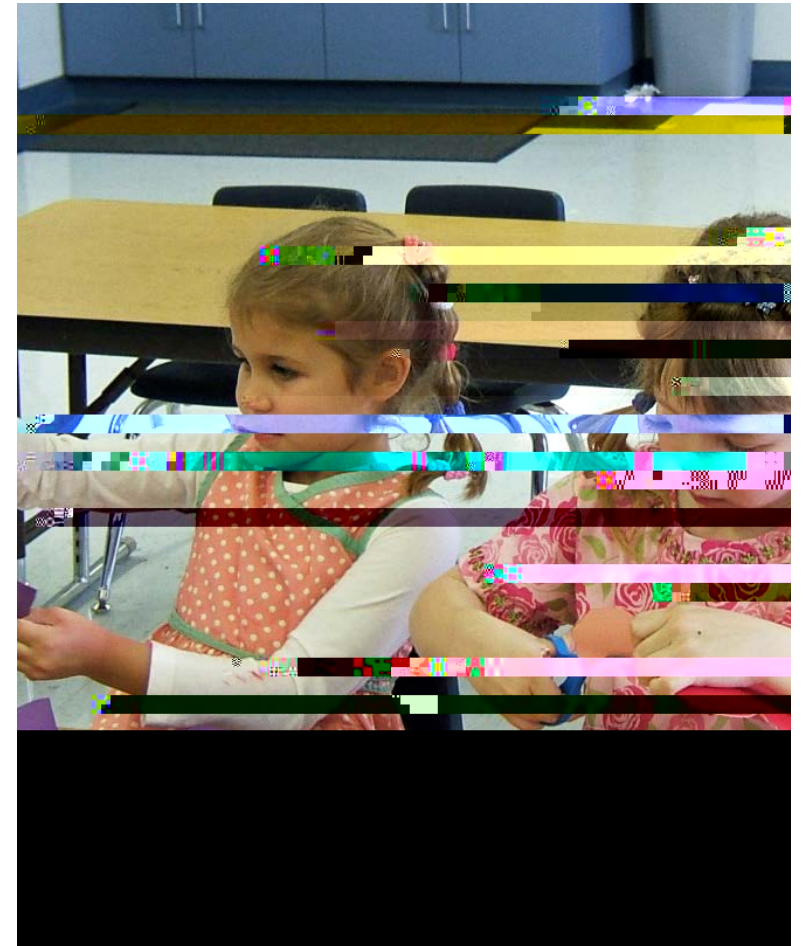


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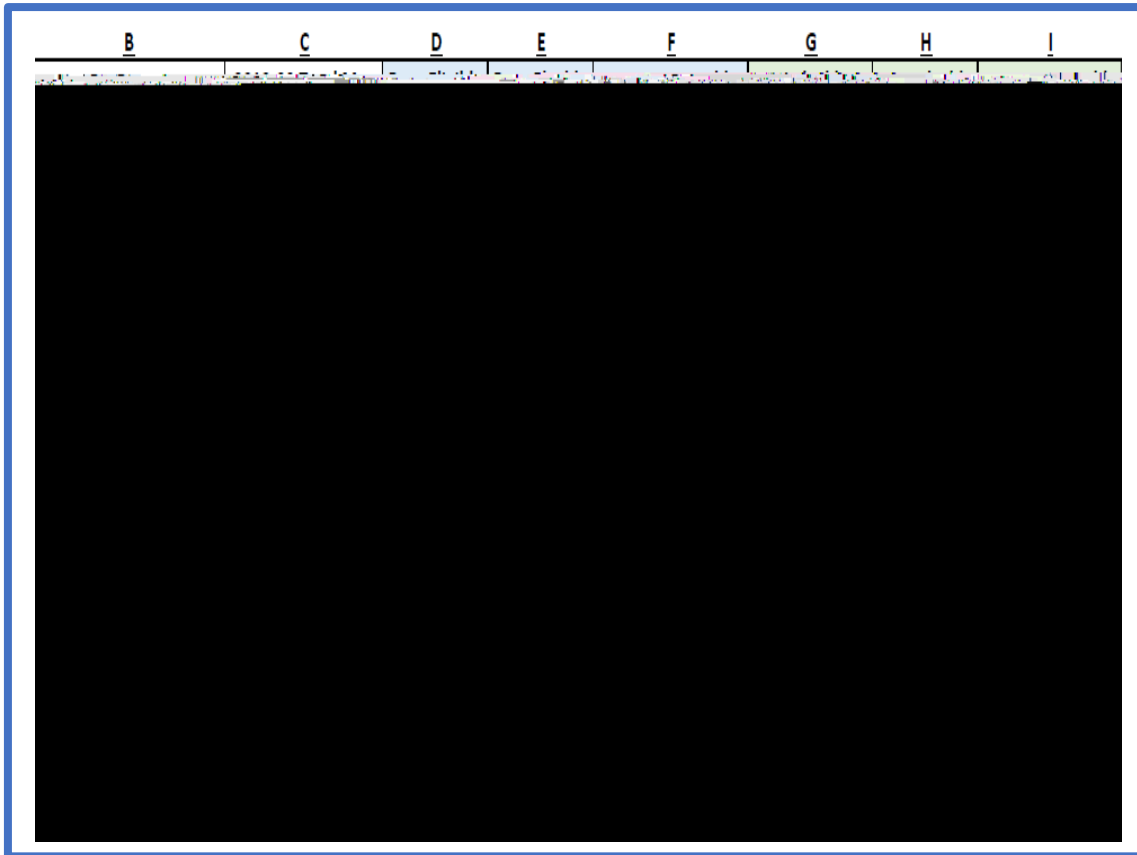
f Terms to know:

- f* Allocation
- f* Maximum Grant Payable
- f* Allowable Expenses
- f* Eligible Child
- f* Eligible Agencies (Collaboration)



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Allocation



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Allowable Expenses

- f* As defined in Commissioner's Regulations 151-1.2(a), approved or all allowable expenses means any expenses for which grant funds may be used, such as, but not limited to, program components, professional salaries, professional development, support services, materials and supplies, administrative support services, transportation services, leasing expenses or other appropriate facilities expenses and other costs as approved by the Commissioner.
- f* Note: Pursuant to Education Law 3602-e, no parent and/or guardian of a child participating in a UPK program can be subjected to a fee/charge for the instructional program.



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Eligible Child



- f* As defined in Commissioner's Regulations 151-1.2(c) an eligible child means a child who resides within the school district who is four years of age on or before December 1st of the year in which he or she is enrolled or who will otherwise be first eligible to enter public school kindergarten commencing with the following school year.

- f* Note: Pursuant to Education Law a child cannot be withheld from a UPK program if they are not toilet trained. More around this guidance can be found on the [Office of Early Learning's website](#).

- f* Note: Out of district students do not count towards the district's FTE when the maximum grant payable is calculated.

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Eligible Agency

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DO DISTRICTS HAVE TO COLLABORATE?



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- f* Yes, as part of Education Law 3602-e, districts are required to collaborate with eligible agencies. However, there are instances where a district can submit with their application a variance for the 10% collaboration requirement.

- f* A district can apply for a collaboration waiver if:
 - f* There are no potential collaborators within the district boundaries;
 - f* Potential collaborators are not interested or have declined to collaborate with the district;
 - f* Potential collaborators are unable or unwilling to comply with UPK requirements;
 - f* No potential collaborators responded to district outreach efforts.

UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES - \$90 MILLION EXPANSION FUNDING

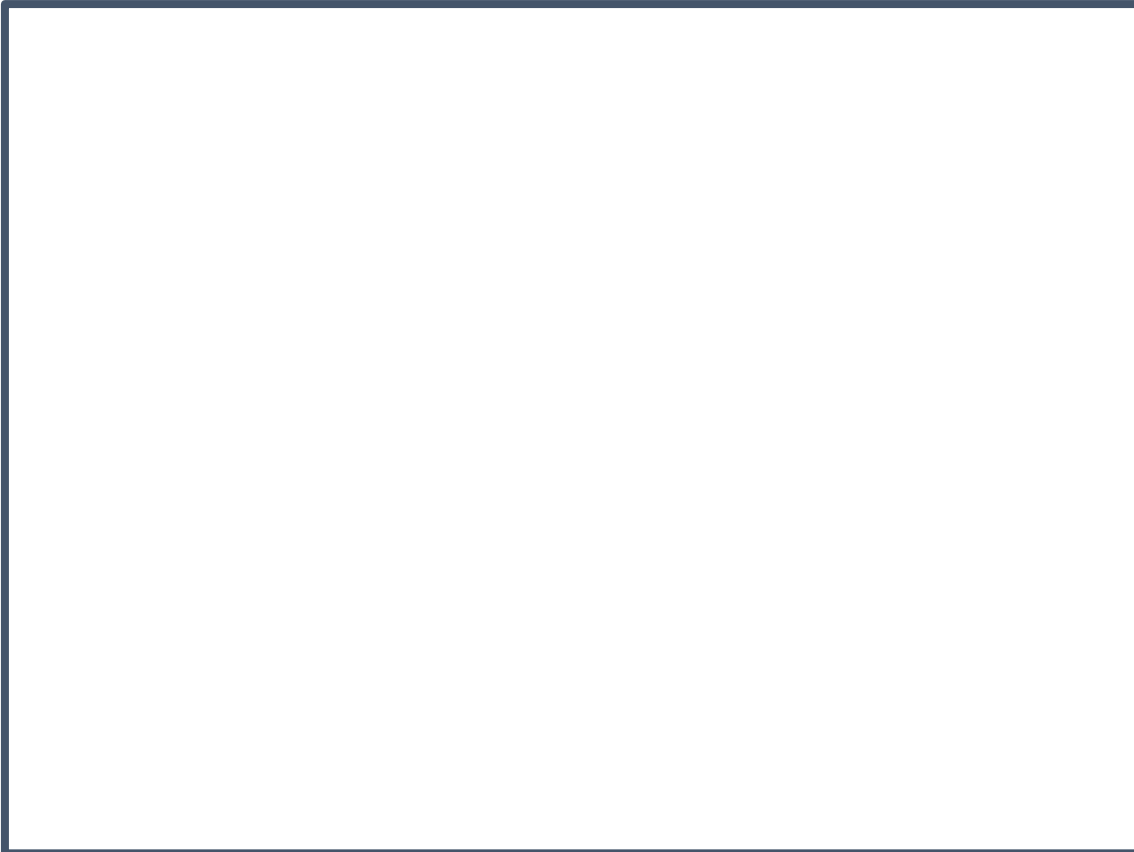


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- f* For districts who have received funding prior to the new funding in the 2022 enacted budget, they must fill all their 4-year-old slots in their “old funding” prior to accessing their “new funding”.
- f* Districts who received “old funding” are still able to run half-day programs. However, all “new funding” slots are for full-day four-year-old students and cannot be converted to half-day slots.
- f* Until federal funding no longer funds this \$90 million expansion, there will be two allocation charts sent out by the Office of Early Learning. Once the federal funding is over it will roll into UPK, and one allocation chart will be sent to districts each year.
- f* Until federal funding expires and is consolidated with state-funded UPK, it will not show up in SAMS. Rather, it will be handled outside normal state aid processes.

UPK APPLICATION PROCESS

NYSED'S OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING



- f* Applications are submitted via the NYSED Business Portal (MVPS). Districts will receive an automated e-mail when applications become available.
- f* Applications are typically due by July 31, 2021. NYSED's Office of Early Learning's staff review all applications and will work with districts to ensure the application has been completed to the office's satisfaction.
- f* Note: Districts do not need to wait until the application is approved to recruit students and prepare for their UPK program due to this being an allocation-based grant.

UPK PAYMENT PROCESS

NYSED'S OFFICE OF GRANTS FINANCE



- f* An FS-10 must be submitted into MVPS when the district submits their UPK application.
- f* Upon approval, the FS-10 will go to Grants Finance. Once entered and approved, the district (typically between September – October) will receive an initial payment of 50% of their allocation.
- f* An FS-10-A must be submitted to the Office of Early Learning for approval if the district needs to move funds into different budget categories or reduce the

2022 ENACTED BUDGET - \$15 MILLION COMPETITIVE GRANT



- f* As part of the 2022 enacted budget, there is additional \$15 million competitive grant for additional full-day seats for four-year-old children.
- f* This competitive grant will be done through an RFP process and is open to all districts. Eligible agencies are not allowed to apply for this funding, though they can contract with districts. Language in the appropriation bill lists factors such as, but not limited to, need of students to be served by the district, targeting highest need schools and students, prioritization of funding to maximize the total number of eligible students served, proposal quality, and the level of existing prekindergarten services in the district.
- f* The per pupil rate follows Statewide Universal Full-Day Prekindergarten (SUFDPK - Education Law 3602-ee): \$7,000 per child being taught by an uncertified teacher; \$10,000 per child being taught by a certified teacher.



NYSED'S OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING



- f* [NYSED's Office of Early Learning's website](#) has information regarding:
 - f* UPK Applications
 - f* Commissioner's Regulations and Education Law
 - f* Frequently Asked Questions
 - f* [Directory of Programs*](#)
 - f* Field Memos and Guidance
 - f* Resources (Birth – Grade 3)



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