



2013-14 TENNESSEE VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN Fact Sheet

The *Voluntary Pre-K for Tennessee Act of 2005* was passed with strong bipartisan support from the Tennessee General Assembly, increasing the state's investment in Early Childhood Education and access for students.

- FY '14 Funding: \$86,552,900 million (\$85,807,268 flow through to LEAs / \$745,652 Admin)
- Number of Classes: 935 State-Funded Pre-K Classes
- Enrollment: 18,000+ Children Enrolled
- Location: All 95 TN Counties
- LEAs Served: 135 TN School Systems *135/136 LEAs pre-K eligible
- Growth of Pre-K 2004 to 2014:

<u>School Year</u>	<u># Pre-K Classrooms</u>	<u># Students Served</u>
2013-14	935	18,000 + (final number in June '14)
2012-13	935	18,621
2011-12	934	18,609
2010-11	934	18,453
2009-10	934	18,370
2008-09	934	18,364
2007-08	934	18,133
2006-07	677	13,197
2005-06	448	9,000
2004-05*	148	3,000 *Pilot pre-K

- The Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K (TN VPK) program is recognized as a national leader in pre-K quality, achieving 9 out of 10 quality standard benchmarks of the *National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)*, only 4 states achieved 10 quality standard benchmarks in 2012.
- TN VPK program is ranked 19th in terms of access to program for four year olds while ranking 13th in terms of state funding (*NIEER 2012*)
- Tennessee is one of 5 states in the nation to receive a grant in 2008 to partner with the *Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (CSEFEL)* to build the capacity of the state to increase the social and behavioral competence of young children. This work continues today in 2013.
- Collaborative classroom partnerships are an integral component of the TN VPK program. Currently there are over 200 collaborative classroom partnerships between 40 local school systems and non-profit and for profit providers such as; Head Start , For-Profit and Not-For-Profit Child Care Providers, Faith Based Agencies, Community Based Agencies, and Higher Education Institutions.
- *United Way of Tennessee* provides local matching funds of nearly \$1 million for 46 pre-K classrooms throughout the state.
- Tennessee recognizes the importance of a highly trained staff by requiring a licensed teacher with pre-K certification and recommending a teacher assistant with early childhood experience and either a Certified Development Associate (CDA), or working towards a CDA certification. Fifty-three percent of teacher assistants have a CDA or higher credential in the 2012-13 school year.
- The TN VPK has one of six full-day programs across the country requiring a minimum instructional day of 5½ hours per day, 5 days per week.
- The *Tennessee Alliance for Early Education (TAEE)* continues to provide strong leadership for the advocacy and advancement of early childhood education in Tennessee.
- The revised TN Early Learning Developmental Standards (TNELDS), for four year-olds, were approved by the state board of education in August 2012.