

ANOKA-HENNEPIN SCHOOLS

Early Learning

The Anoka-Hennepin School District provides high-quality preschool programming through the School Readiness Preschool program.



2013-14 DATA



Student Profile

Anoka-Hennepin Schools serve a diverse student population with a wide range of needs and skill levels. Of the 1,240 preschool students served:

- 54 percent of families utilize the sliding fee scale or tuition is waived
- 240 of those students have identified special needs or have been assigned an Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- 165 of those students are learning to speak English

In order to eliminate barriers for families struggling to send their children to preschool, the Anoka-Hennepin School District provides support services (tuition assistance, transportation, special education referrals, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), English Language Learner services, etc.) for eligible families.

Instructional Focus

Licensed teachers work with the students to practice and target the following learning areas:

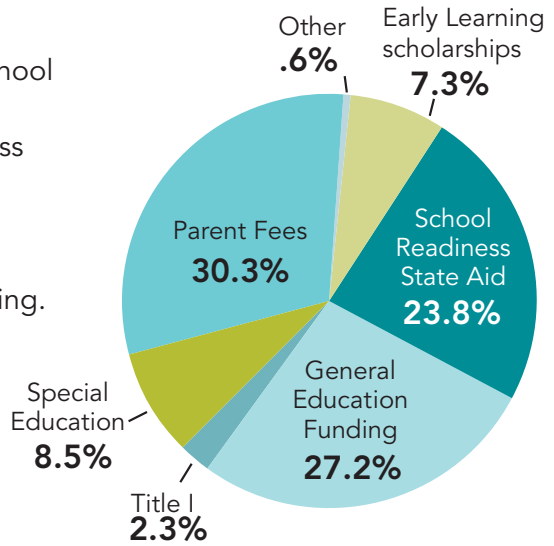
- Social-emotional development
- Literacy
- Cognitive development
- Language skills
- Physical development
- Math

Funding

The School Readiness Preschool program is funded through parent fees, School Readiness state aid, general education funding, special education funding, Early Learning scholarships and Title I funding.

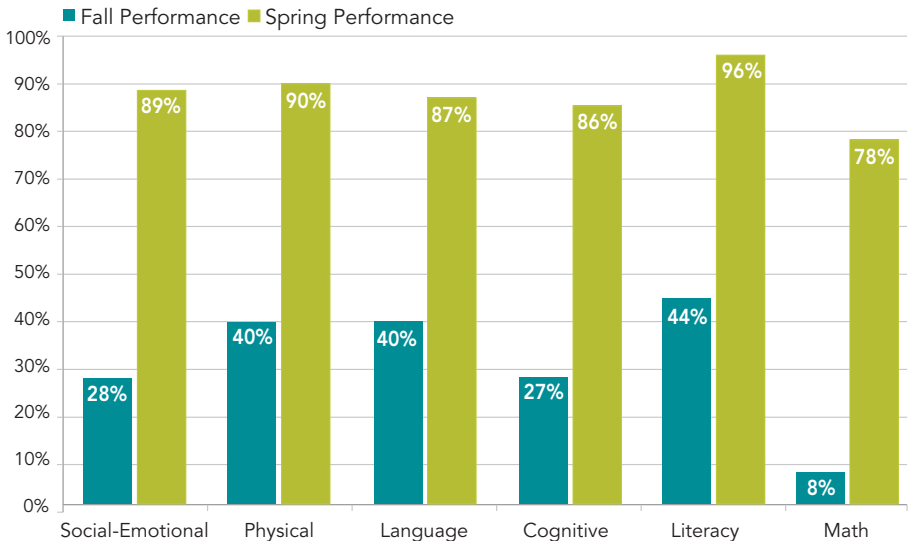
2013-2014

Total: \$1,768,042



Student Results

By providing students with consistent academic rigor and support, the progress that was made within just one school year (2013-14) is impressive.



Early kindergarten assessments determined that students enrolled in School Readiness Preschool were performing at higher levels than in previous years, which indicated a need for adjustments to the curriculum at the elementary level.

PreK – Grade 3 Alignment

Preschool serves as an introduction to the school experience. By exposing students to a comfortable and inspiring classroom environment, students are eager to continue to learn and grow in kindergarten and beyond.

For children with additional risk factors, School Readiness Preschool provides additional academic and behavior support before entering kindergarten.

Additional strategic alignment efforts include:

- **Joint Staff Development** (*early childhood and kindergarten teachers*)
Teacher shadowing, joint professional development opportunities
- **Established Kindergarten-Ready Benchmarks for Anoka-Hennepin Schools**
Defining kindergarten-readiness benchmarks informs curriculum, assessment and professional development.
- **Seamless Curriculum Transition**
The school district hired a teaching specialist to ensure instructional and curriculum alignment across PreK through grade three.
- **Leadership Development**
School principals and early childhood supervisors completed the Minnesota Principals Academy.
- **Common Assessment Tool**
Early Learning programs use a common assessment tool to evaluate student learning. The assessment tool is aligned with district-wide kindergarten-readiness benchmarks.



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Supporting School-Based Early Learning Programs in Minnesota

Define

- Kindergarten ready benchmarks for Minnesota children.



Invest

- In School Readiness programs to ensure that our most at risk learners are ready for Kindergarten.

Build on Strengths

- Provide developmental revenue for school districts to collaborate, align curriculum and train staff across the PreK-3 continuum.
- Create financial incentives for school districts to work with local child-care providers to share curriculum and opportunities for professional development.
- Utilize the universal access that local school districts provide to early learning programs and at risk learners.

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