

## UPK Colorado Provider Talking Points

### **Is UPK Colorado changing the way preschool curriculum is delivered?**

The simple answer is no. UPK Colorado providers must be licensed with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) and follow rules outlined to ensure high quality programming. However, UPK Colorado is not intended to dictate specific programming. Rather, UPK Colorado is changing how preschool is paid for. Similar to how full-day kindergarten was once a cost that was incurred by families and is now funded by the state of Colorado, preschool programming costs were solely the responsibility of most Larimer County families, with the exception of those who qualified for Colorado Preschool Program (CPP). Starting for the 2023-2024 school year, UPK Colorado will be supplementing at least 15 hours of preschool funding for every 4-year-old in Colorado in their year before kindergarten.

### **What makes preschool different now that UPK Colorado is in the mix?**

The only real change that should be apparent to families is that now the state of Colorado is supplementing preschool costs for families. For providers, it also changes how they are paid as some funding will come from the state and other funding will come directly from families.

### Who is eligible for UPK Colorado?

All Colorado children, regardless of income or immigration status, who are 4 years old on or before October 1, 2023, are eligible for at least 15 hours of UPK Colorado in the upcoming school year. Families that meet qualifying factors (including income) may be eligible for more funding.\*

*\*Children who are 4 and have one or more qualifying factors, like an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or those in foster/kinship care, may be eligible for up to 30 hours of preschool programming per week. Children who are 3 years old on or before October 1, 2023, with a qualifying factor may also be eligible for support.*

### How does a family apply for UPK Colorado?

It's a two-step process.

1. Apply for UPK Colorado at: [upk.colorado.gov](http://upk.colorado.gov)
2. Once families receive their “match”, then they enroll in a participating preschool

### Are there any resources I can point families to for more information?

[LarimerPreschool.org](http://LarimerPreschool.org) has information specific to Larimer County families about UPK Colorado. Families can also learn more on the [Colorado Department of Early Childhood's website](http://Colorado Department of Early Childhood's website).

The following videos walk families how to fill out the UPK Colorado as well as how to find a provider on the UPK Colorado website.

- [UPK Colorado Application video](#)
- [UPK Colorado Provider Search video](#)