



# OREGON HEAD START ASSOCIATION





## About Oregon Pre-Kindergarten (OPK)

OPK provides free federal and state funded pre-school programs for 3-4-year old children. The federal program is known as Head Start. Oregon's state funded Head Start Program is known as the Oregon Pre-Kindergarten program.



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Programs support critical language, literacy and emotional development.



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They support children's health – including providing access to physical, dental, and mental health services.



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Free daily meals and snacks to promote good nutrition and ensure that children are healthy and ready to learn.



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Parents learn how best to support their child's educational development and are given opportunities to advance their education and gain job training.



## Children who participate in OPK:

- Are more likely to read by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Are more likely to graduate from high school
- Are more likely to receive a post-secondary degree



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## Who participates in OPK:

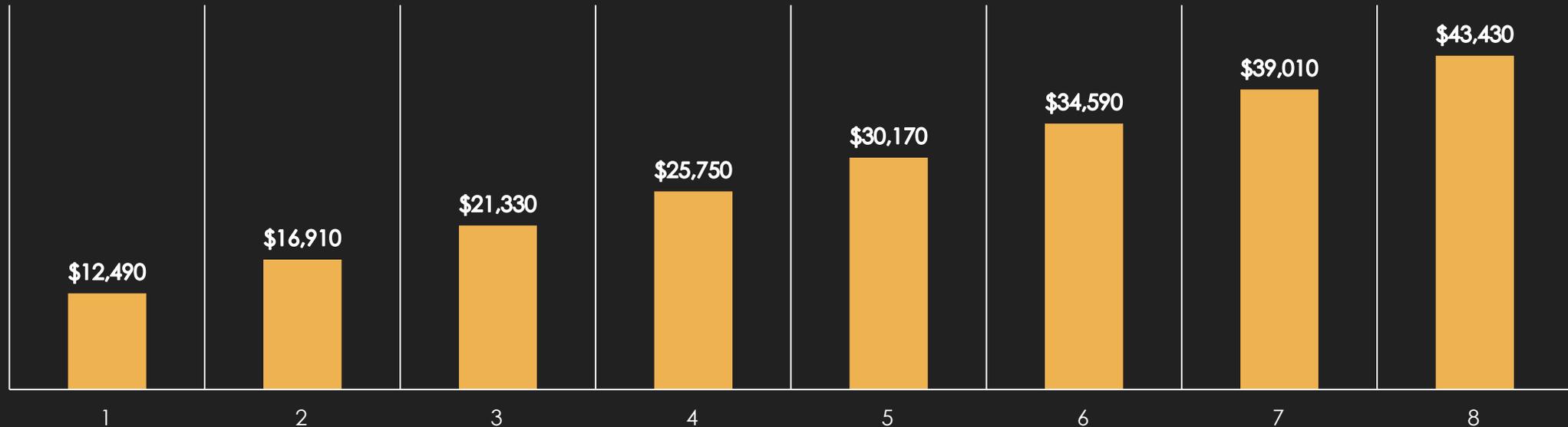
- We serve approximately 12,266 children in programs across the state.
- LFO estimates there are as many as 7,500 families in need of our services.
- Children who qualify for OPK come from families that:
  - Earn less than 100 percent of federal poverty level
  - Families and children who are currently homeless
  - Children in foster care
  - Families receiving SSI or TANF benefits



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## 2019 FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL GUIDELINES

*The following represents 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level*



**PERSONS IN FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD**

*For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,420 for each additional person.*



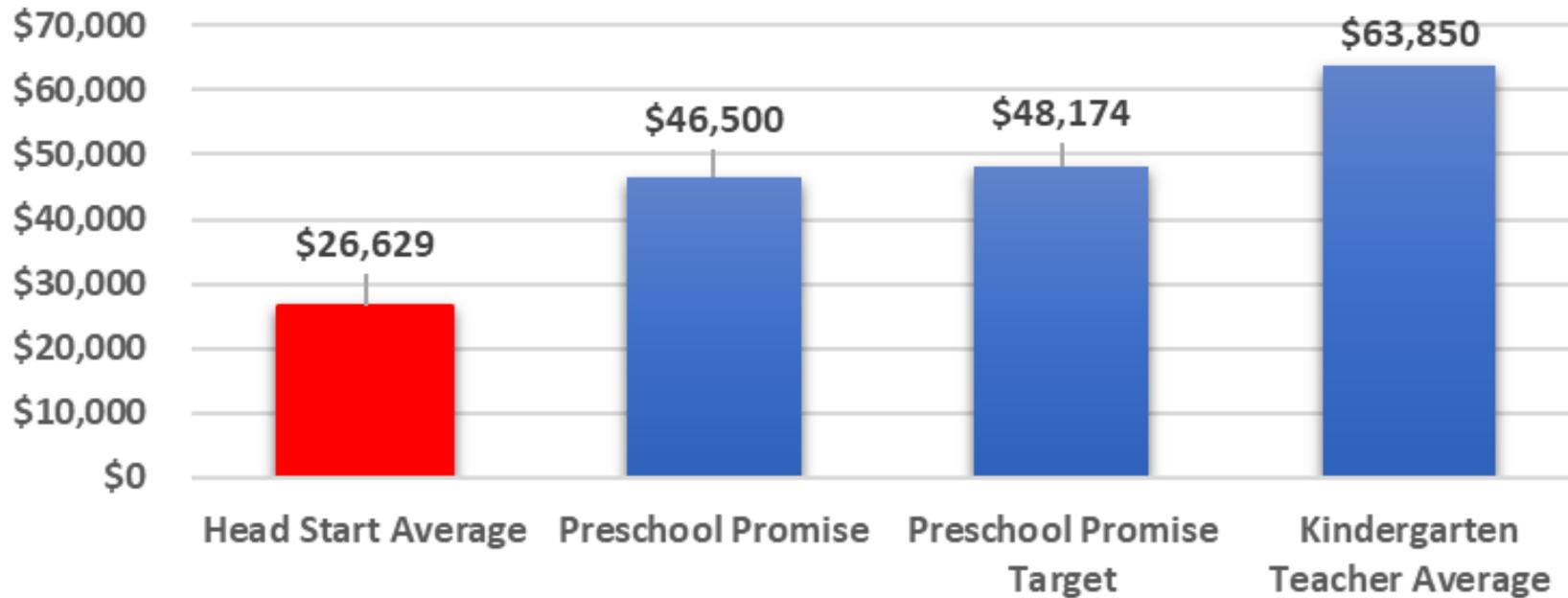
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## Where Head Start programs are located:

- There is an OPK program in every county.
- There are 34 programs statewide
- There are 336 classrooms

## Pay Inequality Among Teachers



We need funding so we can adequately pay teachers, so we have enough staff to continue to provide services to those who need it.

IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES



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## Longer days to meet Federal guidelines and parent needs

Currently, programs run for 3.5 hours and are expanding to 6 hours. This will require additional resources.



IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES



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## Transportation costs

Programs don't provide transportation like K-12 schools. Many programs would like to provide transportation to ensure students get to school.



IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES



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## Unmet need

**Approximately 7,500 children are eligible but not being served.** It is estimated that it would cost \$70 million to serve all children through OPK. This does not include funding to address other issues such as compensation or extended hours.



IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES



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**Governor's Budget:** Provides \$101.3 million of new funding to allow programs to increase teacher pay, increase program hours, provide transportation and allow programs to serve more students. It also provides funding for 1,000 new slots for Early Head Start.

**Joint Student Success:** Provides \$70 million to allow programs to serve the remaining 7,500 children eligible for Head Start. The request also provides \$25 million to fund 1,000 new slots for Early Head Start.

IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES



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**The Oregon Head Start supports the Governor's Recommended Budget of \$101.3 million.** Programs need the flexibility to work with the Early Learning Division to increase cost reimbursements for students, so programs can adequately pay teachers, increase instructional time, and ensure children have transportation options to get to school.

This level of investment will also allow programs to increase the number of children receiving services from our programs.



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