



New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

Early Childhood Cost Estimation Model

The New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Early Childhood Cost Estimation Model provides information and analysis for determining the costs of programs and services that together comprise a comprehensive system of supports and services for children birth to five and their families. The expectation for the cost estimation model from the ECAC Strategic Plan is to “increase public-private investments in early childhood and blend existing investments to maximize impact”.

The cost estimation model identifies funding and population served as it relates to the programs and services that support early learning, healthy families, family supports and the coordinated and responsive system. In addition, it identifies funding to support the expansion and modifications of programs and services provided to the children and families of New York. The model draws information from many state agencies that administer and provide early care and education, prenatal and maternal health programs, child health and mental health, and family support and engagement. This model is able to determine the utilization of costs associated with the programs and services being delivered. With this information, policy makers can determine the need to change, eliminate and/or create new programs to better serve an ever changing population in the state.

The members of the ECAC Finance Work Group hope the Early Childhood Cost Estimation Model provides you with enough assistance to:

- Identify costs related to policy changes;
- Develop fiscal analysis of existing and proposed programs, services, and policies;
- Maximize existing resources; and
- Recognize funding and budgeting strategies.

The cost estimation model is a way to support the current efforts across the state to develop a comprehensive system of supports and services for children birth to five and their families.



New York State ECAC Cost Estimation Model Program Description

Program Name: Universal Prekindergarten (SED)

Description: New York State's Universal Prekindergarten program provide 4 year-old students with an opportunity to access prekindergarten programs that will provide them with the foundation to help prepare for future school success.

Current Funding: Total state funding between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014 was \$385,034,734, all of which came from state funds. Of this, \$224,946,630 was received by New York City.

Note: There was additional prekindergarten fund allocated in the State Fiscal Year 2013-14, which is not included in the cost model.

Total Funded Half-Day Slots: Total number of half-day slots funded between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014 was 98,614. Of the total funded half-day slots, 57,969 were in New York City.

Cost Per Child: Total average funded half-day slot cost between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014 was \$3,904.

Note: Not included in the cost model:

- SFY 2013-2014: Priority Prekindergarten (\$25.0 million)
- SFY 2014-2015: new-Pre-k Program (\$340 million)



ECAC Early Childhood Cost Estimation Model Resources

- New York State Early Childhood Cost Estimation Model Technical Manual
- New York Early Childhood Return on Investment Methodology and Technical Manual
- New York Early Childhood Cost of Quality Methodology
- A look at the New York State's Early Childhood Cost Estimation Model Prepared New York's
 - Investment in Early Childhood
 - Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs
 - Return on Investment