

# Child Care & Early Education RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

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## City Universal Preschool Initiative Evaluations and Research: Research-to-Policy Resources

Since the start of the millennium, states have used public funds to greatly expand access to preschool programs for four-year-olds. States often supplement their own funding with federal funding, notably the Preschool Development Grants and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge initiatives. According to the National Institute for Early Education Research's 2015 State Preschool Yearbook, the percentage of four-year-olds in state preschool programs rose from 14 percent in 2002 to 29 percent in 2015, and this can be in large part attributed to the increase in both state and federal investments (Barnett et al, 2016). However, in states either without state-funded preschool programs or universal access to them, a number of cities have undertaken or are developing initiatives of their own to further expand access to publicly-funded preschool.

This **Research-to-Policy Resource List** provides a comprehensive list of city universal preschool initiative evaluations and research in the *Research Connections* collection. To count as universal, a city's program must aim to eventually provide universal access to publicly-funded preschool for all four-year-olds using at least some city funds, even if it does not currently achieve universal access. Some well-known programs do not meet these criteria, either because they are the city-based implementation of a state universal preschool program (Tulsa, Oklahoma) or because they do not aim for universal access (Chicago's Child-Parent Centers; Salt Lake City, Utah).

Cities with universal preschool programs were identified in recent reviews by the American Institutes for Research (Weinberg, Muenchow, Manship, & Jones, 2016) and the Rand Corporation (Karoly, Auger, Kase, McDaniel, & Rademacher, 2016), as well as in news reports (Samuels, 2016). A number of city programs have not produced evaluations or research publications or are still in the planning or early implementation stages, including Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Dayton, Ohio; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and West Sacramento, California. The city universal preschool initiatives that have produced research or evaluation publications and are included here are: Boston, Massachusetts; Denver, Colorado; Los Angeles, California; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; San Antonio, Texas; San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington; and Washington, District of Columbia



Boston, Massachusetts	New York, New York	San Francisco, California
Denver, Colorado	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Seattle, Washington
Los Angeles, California	San Antonio, Texas	Washington, District of Columbia

### **Boston, Massachusetts**

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### **Multicity/Not Specified**

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