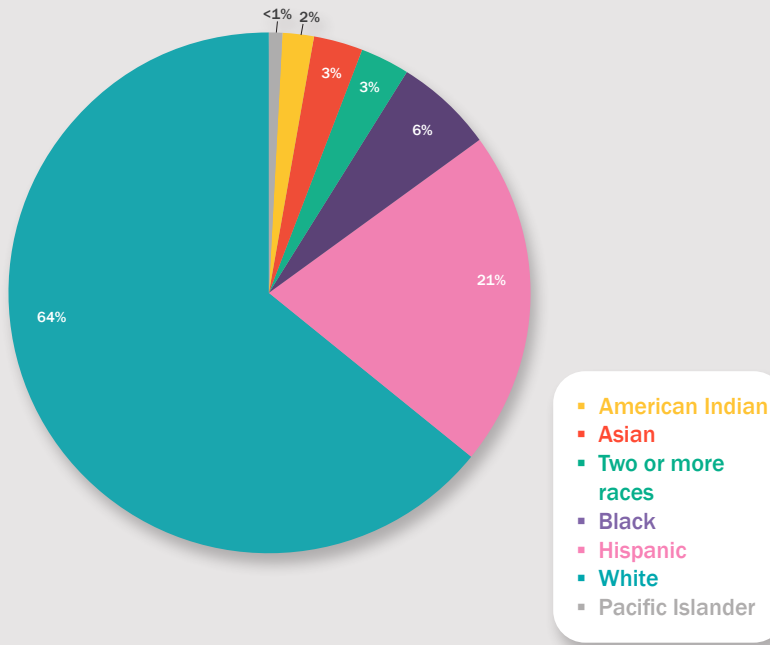


# EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

SNAPSHOTS OF QUALITY OUTCOMES IN DISTRICT OPERATED PROGRAMS | 2019-20



## DEMOGRAPHICS



Nebraska children have access to a variety of early childhood programs, including school district operated programs, Head Start, licensed child care facilities.

Regardless of where these children attend early childhood programs, high quality is an important attribute in order to have positive impacts on the child's future. Many of Nebraska's schools operate early childhood programs that must meet higher standards than those required of licensed providers.

This report highlights Nebraska's public school district and Education Service Unit programs by sharing program and child demographic data, program outcome data as well as the unique supports school districts reported providing in response to COVID-19.

## KID COUNT



5,611  
BIRTH-AGE 2 KIDS



15,745  
AGE 3-5 KIDS



**21,356**  
children being served in district operated prekindergarten programs.

That's **16%** of Nebraska children birth to five based on estimated 2019 US Census data.



**66%** of children being served fall into at least one at-risk category.

## FULL & PART DAY CLASSROOMS

There are **220** District/ESU operated early childhood programs with...

**340** full day classrooms &  
**705** part day classrooms



Prekindergarten programs in school districts include center-based, home-based, and/or special education services for children with IEPs or IFSPs from birth to five.

# PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Research shows that there is an increase in student learning depending on the materials and lesson plans in the classroom. In 2019-20, 55 classrooms were observed using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Third Edition, to support districts in continuous program quality improvement. The graphic below represents the range in quality of materials and interactions in those classrooms, with Fine Motor showing the highest quality.



## COVID-19 RESPONSE

A COVID-19 response survey was sent out to 220 districts operating PreK programs, we received 149 responses. Of those...

77% said they continued programming during school closures.



94% of the responding districts were able to offer these supports at least weekly

93% Furnished materials & supplies for completing education activities

80% Provided meals to families

112 districts shared information regarding programming they provided following closures...

75% Offered digital support

80% Supplied instructions on connecting with teachers

Teaching Strategies GOLD end of year assessment, for general education students, was not collected at a state level due to the COVID-19 pandemic.