



Los Angeles Universal Preschool

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is dedicated to giving every child in Los Angeles County an opportunity to attend a high-quality preschool. Building a universal preschool network is challenging in any county or state, however, and LAUP hopes to serve as a model for others who are making the commitment to prepare every child to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

LAUP is serving LA County by:

- **Creating new preschool spaces efficiently** by, in addition to new buildings, providing funds to operate previously empty classrooms, and constantly looking for opportunities to maximize the use of public and private funds.
- **Making preschool more affordable** because it is often out of reach for middle- and working-class families. Many LAUP preschools are completely free, and no families are turned away because they cannot afford to pay or due to geographic location.
- **Giving preschools the funding they need** to run high-quality programs, because research shows that's the only way the potential benefits of preschool can be realized. The additional funding enables preschools to hire and retain qualified teachers, and fill their classrooms with materials that aid in learning.
- **Continuously improving quality** in the classroom through intensive quality coaching, support, and the development of exemplary practices in a number of important areas. LAUP even supports preschools that do not meet its initial standards for quality, so they may reach their potential and join our network.
- **Letting families choose** from a wide range of preschool programs. LAUP funds preschool classrooms in public schools (including charters), private schools, community and for-profit centers, and we are one of the few universal preschool programs to include home-based family child care programs as full partners. LAUP does not restrict enrollment in any of the programs it funds – all children are welcome. However, due to public funding restrictions, some LAUP-funded preschool programs have their own income limitations.
- **Attracting participation of preschools** by minimizing paperwork and maximizing innovation. While all providers should meet certain basic standards, we know that they face different challenges and present different opportunities. We take a "one size does NOT fit all" approach and seek to support our preschools, not run them.
- **Connecting our programs to their communities** by involving families in decision-making, working to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers, and developing programs that link community services to our preschools.

"I have been in the field for more than 30 years, and over that time I've developed a healthy cynicism about publicly funded programs. LAUP is proving itself different. Its staff understands that not every program has to look and feel the same, and they've supported our efforts to provide a varied, imaginative experience."

– Michelle Ventimiglia, LAUP Provider

LAUP's goal is to enroll as many four-year-olds as possible in high-quality preschools throughout Los Angeles County, where a universal preschool system would be the largest in the nation, and second largest among all state systems.

To find a list of preschools funded by LAUP, or to sign up for the LAUP newsletter, please visit www.laup.net, or call 866-581-LAUP (5287)