Thank you to the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) Board under the leadership of Natalie Burns as OPSR board chair for their dedication to promote school readiness in Oklahoma. To the OPSR Foundation, thank you for seeking financial support to support the OPSR and early childhood initiatives in Oklahoma. This report is a reflection of OPSR’s collective desire to both understand barriers to school success and improve outcomes for young children and their families. I hope you find it a valuable resource to help shape the future of Oklahoma’s early childhood system.

Moreover, I’d like to thank current OPSR staff who assisted in the preparation of this report including, Katie Parker, Gabrielle Jacobi, Diane Bell and Christopher Lee as well as former FY18 employees Megan Scott, Laura Hamilton and Kiersten Durning, whose contributions to OPSR are reflected here.

We are especially grateful to the business leaders and organizations who believe in our mission and vision. We could not do the work that we do without the following supporters: Alliance for Early Success, Arnall Family Foundation, Chesapeake Energy, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Inasmuch Foundation, News 9, Oklahoma Child Care Association, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Potts Family Foundation, Sandbur Productions, TSET, University of Central Oklahoma’s Office of Research & Sponsored Programs and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

It is because of these contributions our early childhood system is able to grow, evolve and implement research informed programs and policies that ensure all children are ready to succeed by the time they enter school. As we work to improve the coordination and quality of our mixed delivery system, together, we can continue to positively impact the lives of children, birth through five.

Debra Andersen
OPSR Executive Director
Dear Governor Fallin,

On behalf of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR), I am pleased to present OPSR’s 2018 Annual Report on early childhood in Oklahoma for your review and consideration. With Oklahoma’s long-standing track record of national leadership in early childhood policymaking and a deeply engaged statewide network of partners, I’m pleased to report that despite far-reaching budget cuts, our system remains nationally-recognized but in immediate need of attention to sturdy long-term impact and improve equity.

Oklahoma has led the way for other states by implementing universal pre-K, statewide home visiting programs, tiered reimbursement for quality child care, and both tribal and non-tribal Early Head Start and Head Start programs. However, we cannot rest on past successes in our state’s mission to have every child prepared for school entry as young children and their families still face barriers to health, early care and learning and support systems.

There are an estimated 21,828 Oklahoma children under the age of six who lack health insurance. Children learn in safe, stable and nurturing environments, yet only 32 percent of low-income children receiving child care assistance are in licensed, highest quality rated centers or homes.

OPSR’s work with partners this year to build an impressive Early Childhood Integrated Data System, pilot the Kindergarten Early Learning Inventory, and assess the equity of our programs by winning a competitive national Project HOPE grant, goes a long way toward strengthening these systems. Our state’s legislature and private sector are growing in their understanding of the significance of early childhood on our state’s economy. This brings private funding, research and legislation to confront and reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences that shape brain development. Early prevention creates a significantly higher return on our taxpayer investment than what we spend on remediation programs, incarceration, social services and re-training an ill-prepared workforce.

I want to thank you for your leadership these past eight years and for your appointment of OPSR as the coordinating body for Oklahoma’s Preschool Development Grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If granted, we know this opportunity will allow Oklahoma to focus on equity and the alignment and coordination of systems, programs and protocols — not the creation of new ones — such that we can constructively build for the future.

Sincerely,

Natalie Burns
OPSR Board Chair
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ABOUT US
About Us

History

In 2003, the Oklahoma legislature signed House Bill 1094, which created our organization, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR). This legislation recognized more state level action is required to successfully support families and children from birth to five-years-old. At this state level, OPSR engages and informs policy makers and the public on how to improve children’s health and development.

Together, we lead public and private partnerships, so that children arrive at school with the knowledge, skills and physical and emotional health to achieve success. We also utilize data, research and best practices that engage parents, nonprofits, community partners and business leaders to inform recommendations to the Governor and legislature.

Mission

Our mission is to lead Oklahoma in coordinating an early childhood system that strengthens families and ensures all children are ready for school.

Vision

Our vision is that all Oklahoma children are safe, healthy, eager to learn and ready to succeed by the time they enter school.

Legislative Mandates

- Conduct an assessment of existing public and private programs to determine their effectiveness and efficient use of state dollars.
- Implement a public engagement campaign and establish a structure to facilitate communication to develop and improve school readiness opportunities at the local level.
- Encourage public and private programs, services and initiatives be brought together to provide coordinated, community based, effective and cost-efficient programs.
- Maximize the extent to which private sector funding is leveraged and federal, state and local funds are coordinated with private funds.
- Establish standards of accountability in school readiness programs and policy and recognize and promote best practices.
- Submit an annual report to the legislature and governor.
Pathway Summary

The Oklahoma School Readiness Pathway serves as our roadmap to identify, monitor and report how Oklahoma is or isn’t meeting school readiness benchmarks. This pathway brings the latest research to the forefront and identifies areas for improvement in programs, policies and funding. Ultimately, our goal is for Oklahoma’s early childhood system to be coordinated, aligned and adequately funded.

The pathway illustrates how Health, Early Care and Learning, and Family Support influence a child’s readiness for school. Beginning at birth through school entry, this framework allows us to monitor outcomes and indicators that inform action including policy changes, effective investments and quality improvements.

OPSR Foundation

In conjunction with the establishment of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness, the OPSR Foundation was created to solicit and receive public and private funds. The foundation supports OPSR’s mission and vision by expanding the breadth in which our organization can financially support early childhood research, programs and initiatives. In this capacity, the OPSR Foundation operates as a 501(c)3.

Currently, the foundation is made up of passionate, dedicated advocates, some of whom worked to improve school readiness even before the formation of OPSR. Our foundation is proud of OPSR’s hard work over the past 15 years but knows there is much more to be gained if we continue to invest in children from birth to the time they enter school.

Bill Doenges
President

Kathy Cronemiller
Vice President

Jerry Burger
Secretary

Bob Harbison
Treasurer

Janet McKenzie
Governance Chair

Ann Cameron
Trustee

Debra Andersen
Executive Director
The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board is comprised of agency leaders and governor appointees that are responsible for carrying out state and federal legislatively defined mandates. During FY18, the following 32 members served on the OPSR Board.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polly Anderson</td>
<td>Executive Director OETA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blayne Arthur</td>
<td>Executive Director 4-H Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Bates</td>
<td>Interim Commissioner of Health OK State Department of Health Designee: Edd Rhoades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Burns</td>
<td>OPSR Board Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deby Snodgrass</td>
<td>Executive Director Oklahoma Department of Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Cameron</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Immediate Past Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angie Clayton</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Kids R Us of Tecumseh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Cronemiller</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Child Care, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joy Culbreath</td>
<td>Education Director Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>William &quot;Bill&quot; Doenges</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Community Volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marianne &quot;Marny&quot; Dunlap, MD</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Children’s Hospital at OU Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kay C. Floyd</td>
<td>State Director of Head Start Collaboration OK Association of Community Action Agencies Designee: Zach Cole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Gardner</td>
<td>General Counsel The Funk Companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joy Hofmeister</td>
<td>Superintendent OK State Department of Education Designee: Cindy Koss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa McLawhorn Houston</td>
<td>Secretary of Education and Workforce Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annette Jacobl</td>
<td>Executive Director Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glen Johnson</td>
<td>Chancellor OK State Regents for Higher Education Designee: Gina McPherson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Lake</td>
<td>Director Oklahoma Department of Human Services Designee: Lesli Blazer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Lightfoot</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Community Volunteer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcie Mack</td>
<td>Director Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan McVey</td>
<td>Director Oklahoma Department of Libraries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misty Montgomery</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Parent Volunteer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Ockershauser</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Chesapeake Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Pasternik-Ikard</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer Oklahoma Health Care Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Posey</td>
<td>Governor Appointee HSI Sensing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray H. Potts</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Potts Exploration LLC</td>
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<td>Sarah Roberts</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Inasmuch Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deby Snodgrass</td>
<td>Executive Director Oklahoma Department of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Stafford</td>
<td>Governor Appointee Big Five Community Services, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noel Tyler</td>
<td>Director Oklahoma State Department of Rehabilitation Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Koppel Van Hanken</td>
<td>Governor Appointee George Kaiser Family Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terri White, MSW</td>
<td>Commissioner OK Department of Mental Health &amp; Substance Abuse Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephan M. Wilson, Ph.D. CFLE</td>
<td>Regents Professor and Dean College of Human Sciences Oklahoma State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OPSР Staff

The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness staff work diligently to ensure children are on a successful path. In FY18, OPSР had six team members with various expertise and skills that allowed our organization to maximize efforts and impact Oklahoma children.

Debra Andersen
Executive Director

Debra has been the executive director of OPSР since June 2010. With over 30 years of professional experience, her priority is to improve public policy through data informed decisions. She is an expert in organizing collaborative efforts at both community and state levels to create positive change for young children and their families.

Diane Bell
Program Director

Laura Hamilton
Fiscal Manager

Kiersten Durning
Research & Evaluation Specialist

Chris Lee
Administrative Specialist

Katie Parker
Community Relations Specialist

Megan Scott
Program Manager
ACHIEVEMENTS
FY 2018 Highlights

It was another year of both challenges and accomplishments for OPSR. The below list highlights some of our proudest achievements.

- **A whole new look.** The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness contracted with liquidfish, a web design and marketing company, to change our image. This rebranding included the creation of a new logo as well as other brand standards, including colors and fonts. Our new logo represents the corner of a track and is inspired by the fact that OPSR helps children in the race of life. Now, our look is fresh, modern and professional and reflects the very best of OPSR.

- **The power of parenting.** At the 2018 Oklahoma Early Childhood Research Symposium, OPSR once again successfully brought together those who care about and work with families and children to improve and increase investments in early childhood. Specifically, we highlighted research that looked at understanding the complexities of poverty. Keynote presenters included Jacqueline Counts, University of Kansas, Center for Public Partnerships and Research, director and Kristen Slack, University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Social Work, professor. In addition, Bob Harbison was selected as the 2018 OPSR Champion for Children for his 20+ years of advocacy and leadership.

- **Supporting our teachers.** Oklahoma made great progress on the development of an Early Learning Inventory (ELI) for Kindergarten, an assessment that provides teachers with a snapshot of a student’s cognitive skills, behavior and physical maturity at the beginning of school. OPSR completed its feasibility study and a report with recommendations is now available. Find out more on page 11 of this report.

- **Convening partnerships.** We continue to focus on improving coordination and facilitating communication, such that OPSR works directly with the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) on policy and program implementation. This partnership brings together the strengths of each program and provides comprehensive family services within high quality, early learning environments that are aligned with Head Start performance standards. EHS-CCP grantees are Delaware Child Development Center, CAP Tulsa, Sunbeam Family Services, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency, Inc. and Tulsa Educare, Inc.

- **Headed for a bright future.** Looking ahead, OPSR was recently selected to lead Project HOPE (Harnessing Opportunity for Positive, Equitable Early Childhood Development) in Oklahoma. One of only four states to be chosen for this grant by Nemours Children’s Health System, OPSR will work with a local community to generate progress toward equitable outcomes for young children and families. In addition, OPSR is set to apply for the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five. If selected, this grant will bring significant funding to our state to improve the coordination and quality of a mixed delivery system of early childhood programs.
REPORT
REQUIREMENTS
**Summary**

The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act, Title 10 O.S. § 640, calls for an annual report on key indicators to monitor progress on increasing the number of children ready to succeed by the time they enter school.

As such, this report includes the following indicators:

- Detailed summary of community initiatives and programs funded in whole, or in part, by the OPSR Board.
- Preparedness level of children entering Kindergarten.
- Availability and cost of quality child care for children under five years of age needing care outside their home.
- Number, location and status of quality pre-K programs in the state.
- Percentage of third grade students reading at or above grade level.
- Status and results of the effort of the OPSR Board to engage the public regarding the care and education of children under the age of five years and of the efforts of the OPSR Board to develop and promote private sector programs and voluntary parental involvement.
PARTNER
SHIPS
The Oklahoma Early Learning Inventory (ELI) provides teachers with a snapshot of a student’s skills and development at the beginning of Kindergarten. The information gained by this assessment not only informs educators on how to support their classrooms but additionally, can serve as a guide to families, community partners and policymakers on how to enhance early learning opportunities.

Unlike current literacy-only assessments used in Oklahoma classrooms, the ELI accounts for critical areas of development, including social-emotional, cognitive, language and physical development.

This project was supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the George Kaiser Family Foundation. In partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education, OPSR conducted statewide surveys, focus groups and personal interviews of pre-K and Kindergarten teachers and administrators on the use of assessments in their classrooms.

Since 2016, OPSR aggregated this feedback, presented results and provided ELI professional development to teachers and school districts. Then, in FY17-18, OPSR conducted a feasibility study to assess the cost, resources, benefits and limitations of implementing an ELI.

Our pilot districts for the ELI feasibility study included: Ada, Canadian, Cimarron, El Reno, Gypsy, Marietta, Milwood, Newcastle, Oklahoma City, Osage, Pawnee, Quapaw, Stillwater, Stratford, Tulsa and Welch.

After the feasibility study, our research partners created a final report with recommendations about the ELI. This report can be found on our website. Click the below link to access it.

**2018 ELI Final Report**

In addition, we’d like to acknowledge our ELI research partners, including Dr. Kyong-Ah Kwon, assistant professor, College of Education, University of Oklahoma; Timothy Ford, assistant professor, College of Education, University of Oklahoma; Shannon Guss, project director, Early Childhood Education Institute, University of Oklahoma-Tulsa; and Diane Horm, director, Early Childhood Education Institute, University of Oklahoma-Tulsa.

Lastly, we’d like to thank our steering committee for offering their expertise throughout this process including: Amy Tate, clinical associate professor, Department of Human Development & Family Science, OSU-Tulsa; Angie Bookout, coordinator of educational policy, Office of Educational Quality and Accountability; Charmin Holland, teacher, Duncan Public Schools; Cindy Koss, deputy state superintendent of academic affairs, Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE); Jose Hernandez, director of early childhood education, IDEA Division and special education, OSDE; Michelle Burks, curriculum coordinator, Moore Public Schools; Sharon Morgan, director of early childhood, OSDE; Tiffany Neill, executive director of curriculum and instruction, OSDE; and Sophia Pappas, managing director, Birth through Eight Strategy for Tulsa, George Kaiser Family Foundation.
**Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)**

The Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) creates securely-linked data across various early childhood programs to inform Oklahoma’s early childhood system.

In partnership with the Oklahoma Health and Human Services Cabinet and the Oklahoma State Department of Education, OPSR is leading efforts to design and implement ECIDS.

Thank you to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the George Kaiser Family Foundation for their funding that has made this project possible.

In FY18, OPSR partnered with national experts Elliot Regenstein and Jonathan Furr to gain insight as to the next steps Oklahoma should take to further the development of ECIDS. Regenstein is a partner at Foresight Law + Policy with extensive knowledge on state level policy, governance and data systems.

Furr is the founder and executive director of Educations Systems Center and is actively engaged in state and national education policy.

Regenstein and Furr presented their findings to Oklahoma’s key stakeholders, and their full report can be found here.

To learn more about how sharing early childhood information can support children’s development, check out this [fact sheet](#) and this [informative chart](#) from the Early Childhood Data Collaborative.

"Building a system’ is about much more than just a set of technical linkages. Indeed, the necessary steps to building a system include a mix of political, legal and technical work."

- Elliot Regenstein
Community Cafés

OPSR partnered with the Oklahoma State Department of Health to host a series of community cafés. These forums gathered feedback from parents as well as community partners who work with children and families to inform a statewide child abuse prevention plan. Seven communities were selected for these events, including Ada, Altus, Bartlesville, Elk City, Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Woodward.

During the community cafés participants split into small groups and delved into several hard-to-answer questions to identify priorities and a vision for the future. Although different themes emerged in each community, several common issues were identified including increased availability of resources supporting children and families; changed attitudes and less stigma attached to needing and asking for help; and positive family and community environments with increased social connections.

All this information was transcribed by Oklahoma State Department of Health officials who analyzed it and developed a child abuse prevention plan. In addition to the cafés, the state department used surveys collected from professionals and families to assist the plan. Click this link for the “State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect.”

Click here to read more about our community cafés and see us in The Ada News and Woodward News, here and here, respectively.

Community Grants

Four communities, including Altus, Bartlesville, Lawton and Ponca City, received grants of $5,000 each to address an area of need that was identified in their 2017 Community Needs Assessment.

Find details of each grants’ purpose and findings below.

**Altus: Southwest Community Action Group**
- **Funded Activity**: This group hosted meetings with parents and professionals to determine what services are available as well as why families seek services later in pregnancy and how to make improvements.
- **Purpose**: The purpose of these meetings was to support local efforts to engage families of young children and identify gaps and barriers to early care.
- **Findings**: Expectant parents do have services in Altus, and in fact, many pregnant women take advantage of medical services in the first trimester. However, teen pregnancy and substance abuse has a higher correlation with late prenatal care. Improvements can be made by making the public aware of the need for teens to engage with physicians for reproductive health information as well as better communications about prenatal visits, so there are less misperceptions.

**Bartlesville: Delaware Child Development**
- **Funded Activity**: In partnership with hospital staff, this organization purchased the fifth module of the digital educational tool, InJoy Understanding Your Newborn (InJoy).
**Community Grants Cont.**

- **Purpose:** The purpose of this educational tool was to encourage collaboration between the hospital staff and family service team members while supporting new parents.

- **Findings:** The expectations of Delaware Child Development and hospital staff were exceeded based on the amount of quality feedback they received after implementing InJoy. Due to its success, other opportunities to further parent education and enhance collaborations with hospital staff have been identified.

**Lawton: United Way of Southwest Oklahoma**

- **Funded Activity:** A [Born Learning Trail](#) was installed in a public area in the Lawton-Fort Sill area.

- **Purpose:** The purpose of this trail is to increase parental awareness while also teaching parents how to interact with their children in a fun, educational way. In addition, this trail can help increase the reading level of pre-K students.

- **Findings:** Currently, children and adults are utilizing the Born Learning Trail and interest in additional trails has been overwhelming. As it stands, there is a waiting list of locations for more permanent Born Learning Trails and/or sites once funding is established.

**Ponca City: Northern Oklahoma Youth Services**

- **Funded Activity:** This organization utilized funds for a traditional and social media campaign.

- **Purpose:** The purpose of this campaign was to increase awareness of services available to parents of young children, improve communication and create a forum for parents.

- **Findings:** Since instituting the campaign, 26,101 people viewed the campaign’s social media posts that were “boosted.” This also generated 3,745 post engagements with 449 clicks on an associated link for feedback to Northern Oklahoma Youth Services. Three hundred public service announcements and logo banners also made a large impact.
Oklahoma School Readiness Pathway

Many factors contribute to school readiness. The Oklahoma School Readiness Pathway (Pathway) serves as our roadmap to identify, monitor and report how Oklahoma is or isn’t meeting school readiness benchmarks. Ultimately, our goal is for Oklahoma’s early childhood system to be coordinated, aligned and adequately funded.

Moreover, the Pathway illustrates how Health, Early Care and Learning, and Family Support influence a child’s readiness for school.

Beginning at birth through school entry, this framework allows us to monitor outcomes and indicators that inform action, including effective investments and quality improvements.

The Pathway was developed to depict the complexity of interlocking system components that comprise school readiness. It brings the latest research to the forefront and identifies areas for improvement in funding, programs and policies.
To help guide the Oklahoma School Readiness Pathway, OPSR adopted a framework to articulate skills and system components that must be in place to ensure children are prepared and successful in Kindergarten and beyond. Families, communities and schools each have responsibilities in providing opportunities for children to be prepared upon school entry. This framework differs from the Pathway because it provides a broader context of how the community supports specific skills to prepare children for school.
Early Care & Learning

One major goal of the Oklahoma School Readiness Pathway is that all children are engaged in high quality early care and learning.

Why? By engaging children in high quality early care and learning, they are more likely to succeed in school and throughout their lifetime.

But what makes something “high quality”? High quality programs are ones in which exceptionally trained teachers use effective, developmentally appropriate curriculum to form a solid learning foundation. In addition, high quality early care and learning requires supportive learning environments with an adequate number of teachers and leaders who tailor learning experiences to a child’s individual, cultural needs.

Desired outcomes along the Pathway that meet the benchmarks of school readiness for early care and learning include the following:

- Children have access to high quality, developmentally appropriate programs with professionals.
- Children attend early learning programs and schools consistently.
- Children learn in safe environments with positive climates that support social-emotional development.

As such, this report looks at the need, availability, cost and quality of child care in order to gauge Kindergarten readiness in Oklahoma. It’s important to note that affordable, dependable and accessible child care for low-income families can impact whether that family maintains employment and makes a living wage in contrast to relying on public assistance. The following data are key indicators of our progress to ensure all children are ready to succeed by the time they enter school.
**Need**

As the numbers demonstrate, Oklahoma can do a much better job of supporting working families, so they are able to better afford care for their children. In 2017, there were 303,691 children ages 0-5 in Oklahoma. Of that population, 61.9 percent had all available parents in the workforce, indicating a strong need for child care and a need for more options.

Of parents seeking child care, 94.2 percent sought full time care, which is an 11.3 percent increase since 2010. In fact, parents continue to report an increasing need for care during nontraditional hours with 54 percent seeking care after school and in the evening and another 19.9 percent seeking care on the weekends.

### 2017 Oklahoma Children Needing Care While Parents Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Child Population</th>
<th>Number of Children with Working Parents</th>
<th>Percent of Children with Working Parents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 — 5</td>
<td>303,691</td>
<td>187,999</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 — 12</td>
<td>361,743</td>
<td>247,110</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 — 12</td>
<td>665,434</td>
<td>435,109</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This information was provided by the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Inc. and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.*
Availability

Availability refers to an adequate supply of licensed facilities and the capacity to meet the needs of working families. There has been a steady decline in the number of licensed facilities in the state with a 27.3 percent decrease since 2010.

2017 Oklahoma Licensed Child Care Availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Facilities</th>
<th>Total Capacity</th>
<th>% of Facilities Accepting DHS Subsidies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Total</td>
<td>3,359</td>
<td>121,062</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers</td>
<td>1,522</td>
<td>105,517</td>
<td>64.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes</td>
<td>1,837</td>
<td>15,564</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This information was provided by the Oklahoma Department for Human Services and the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Inc. and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.
Over the past year, there has been a 30.4 percent decrease in the number of full day pre-K programs, but a 1.9 percent increase in the number of children enrolled in these programs.

2017 Oklahoma Pre-K Enrollment

This information was provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.
Cost

The cost of child care can serve as a serious barrier to a family’s overall success, happiness and health. The average annual cost for care in a child care facility ranges from $6,959 for infants to $5,530 for 4-5 year olds.

2017 Oklahoma Weekly Child Care Cost

This information was provided by the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Inc. and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.
Child care assistance is available through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) for families with low incomes — but only one in six families who may be eligible actually receive assistance.

According to DHS, in 2017, 44,042 children in Oklahoma received subsidized care, so their parents or caregivers could work or complete their education.
2017 Oklahoma Child Care Subsidy by Age

This information was provided by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.
Quality

Approximately, 51 percent of Oklahoma licensed child care facilities are one star facilities, meaning they meet minimal licensing requirements. Programs that meet licensing requirements receive higher reimbursement rates for providing care for children whose parents receive child care subsidies.

DHS reports that 95.8 percent of children receiving child care assistance attend two or three star facilities, but the number of two and three star facilities in Oklahoma continues to decline.

This information was provided by the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Inc. and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.
2017 Oklahoma Star Ratings for Children Receiving Subsidized Care

- 1 Star (3.0%)
- 1+ Star (1.2%)
- 2 Star (63.8%)
- 3 Star (32.0%)

This information was provided by the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Inc. and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.
Oklahoma Licensed Child Care Quality Trends

This information was provided by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.
Pre-K

The percent of four-year-olds who attended a public school pre-K over the past ten years has remained steady. In 2017, 73 percent of four-year-olds participated in pre-K, which is only down one percent from 2016, according to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). Out of these children about 87 percent are enrolled in a full-day program.

With the help of OPSR, Oklahoma has piloted an Early Learning Inventory, which helps teachers better understand a student’s skills and development at the beginning of Kindergarten. Full details about this work can be found on page 11 of this report.

In addition, total state spending on pre-K was $144,470,607 for 2017. And state spending per child enrolled in pre-K, including local, state, federal contributions, was $7,428.

To learn more about pre-K in Oklahoma, check out the complete report by NIEER, here. Or read the Oklahoma State Department of Education’s Fast Facts 2017.

This information was provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.
Head Start

In addition to public school pre-K, Head Start programs serve a large number of children. In 2016, a total of 20,357 children, ages 0-5+, were enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start.

Head Start demographics are diverse with participants in Region IV identifying as: 12,837 non-Hispanic or latino, 7,299 white, 4,397 Hispanic or latino, 3,326 black, 2,769 American Indian/Alaskan native and 1,783 biracial or multi-racial.

In Region XI (includes American Indian Head Start Grantees) the largest groups of participants identify as: 3,039 non-Hispanic or latino, 2,136 American Indian/Alaskan native, 786 white and 240 Hispanic or latino with all other ethnicities with less than 200 participants.

The above figures include pregnant women. For a complete breakdown and other information, click here for the latest Head Start report.

2016 Oklahoma Head Start Enrollment by Race

Region IV

- White (43.4%)
- Hispanic or Latino (26.1%)
- Black (19.8%)
- Two or More (10.6%)

Region XI*

- White (23.4%)
- Hispanic or Latino (7.1%)
- American Indian (63.5%)
- All Other Races (5.9%)

* Includes American Indian Head Start Grantees

This information was provided by the Oklahoma Head Start and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.
Third Grade Reading

For the most recent Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests, Reading Scores for third grade, click here.

In addition, we look at fourth grade reading levels for a more accurate portrayal of disparities. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) fourth grade reading score for Oklahoma in 2017 was 217, which is slightly lower than the national average of 221. Oklahoma’s average score in 2015 was 222. The percentage of students in Oklahoma who performed at or above the NAEP Basic level was 64 percent in 2017. This percentage was also smaller than that in 2015 (71 percent).

This decrease over two years could be due to the teacher shortage Oklahoma has recently faced.

There are also large gaps in student groups. For example, in 2017, black students had an average score 18 points lower than white students. Students who were eligible for free/reduced school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score 23 points lower than students not eligible.

This information was provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.

* Reporting standards not met.
Family Support

Another goal of the Oklahoma School Readiness Pathway is for all families to have access to education and support services.

Why? Without support, vulnerable families struggle to fulfill their child’s health and developmental needs, putting their path to school readiness in jeopardy. For example, families living in high poverty or crime areas may be less likely to utilize community resources that could enrich their child’s learning. On the other hand, families who receive support are more engaged in their child’s development.

Desired outcomes along the Pathway that meet the benchmarks of school readiness for family support include the following:

- Children have safe, stable and nurturing relationships with their caregivers.
- Families have the knowledge, skills and social supports for their children’s optimal development.
- Children live in economically secure families.
- Communities are safe, toxic free and economically viable in support of children and families.
Family Support Cont.

While we continue to develop indicators to help us determine how and where Oklahoma should invest more resources, in FY18, we looked at the percentage of mothers who report sufficient social support. The below information was provided by the Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health.

In 2016, **81.9%** of parents in Oklahoma said in the past 12 months there was someone that they could turn to for day-to-day emotional support with parenting or raising children.
Health

The third major goal of the Oklahoma School Readiness Pathway is for all children and families to have access to health services.

Why? Connecting children and their parents to health services is a critical step toward school readiness. In fact, health and development begins at birth, which is why a child’s earliest years are so important. Children who are born healthy and on time have mothers who received prenatal care, including adequate nutrition and monitoring for health risks.

Desired outcomes along the Pathway that meet the benchmarks of school readiness for health include the following:

- Babies are born on time and healthy.
- Children have access to health care.
- Children are physically and emotionally healthy.
- Children are on a positive developmental trajectory.
While we continue to develop indicators to help us determine how and where Oklahoma should invest more resources, in FY18, we looked at the percentage of babies who weren’t born at a low birthweight.

The below information was provided by the Oklahoma State Health Department.

In 2016, **92.3%** of babies born in Oklahoma were born weighing more than 5.5 lbs.
Health Cont.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Oklahoma’s uninsured rate increased in 2017 to 14.2 percent from 13.8 percent in 2016, while the national rate stayed flat. This means that there were 11,559 more uninsured Oklahomans than the previous year. Currently, Oklahoma has the second highest uninsured rate in the country. However, many Oklahomans, including those insured, still face problems receiving care.

In 2017, 545,483 Oklahomans faced significant difficulties just seeing a doctor or filling a prescription. Children in Oklahoma are more likely to be uninsured than other children across the country. As denoted in the chart below, 7.1 percent of children under six in Oklahoma do not have any form of health insurance. While the progress to reduce the poverty rate is encouraging, the increasing rate of uninsured children in Oklahoma is discouraging.

### Health Coverage of Oklahoma Children Under Six

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With Health Insurance Coverage</td>
<td>163,684</td>
<td>145,831</td>
<td>309,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without Health Insurance Coverage</td>
<td>10,769</td>
<td>11,059</td>
<td>21,828</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*This information was provided by the U.S. Census Bureau and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.*
Summary

In addition to a legislative requirement, OPSR views engaging with the public as a top priority in order to achieve its mission and vision. By connecting with business leaders, state agencies, parents, providers, and other early childhood professionals, we have a diverse group of advocates who are willing to use their voice to inspire change.

From traditional media to our annual research symposium, OPSR is finding new ways to communicate with and receive feedback from the public.

Traditional Media

By utilizing both traditional and social media, OPSR has taken the opportunity to communicate with individuals of all ages, race, and economic and social status. Traditional media, specifically, refers to communication tools including print, broadcast and radio.

In FY18, OPSR made best use of print media to inform its audience. In fact, in the last month of the fiscal year, we were mentioned five times in print media.

In particular, the media showed a special interest in OPSR’s work with the Oklahoma State Department of Health to host community cafés, which helped inform a statewide child abuse prevention plan. This is a strong indication that the media will cover news involving collaborations with state agencies as well as serious topics like child abuse. As such, this insight can and will be used to leverage future stories about OPSR to gain more news coverage. Full details about that project can be found on page 13 of this report.

Find a list of the most recent FY18 print and broadcast coverage below. Click the link to be taken to the complete story.

- “Ray Potts: Early learning, aftercare programs are crucial,” The Oklahoman, Ray Potts, June 9, 2018.
**Social Media**

Currently, OPSR utilizes Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to engage with business leaders, state agency leaders, parents, providers and other early childhood professionals on social media.

During FY18, OPSR’s Twitter and Youtube accounts reduced activity. This was due to limited resources and staffing necessary to maintain multiple social media accounts.

Despite limited activity, OPSR still maintained approximately 600 followers on Twitter. And OPSR was fairly consistent on Facebook, making good use of event postings and sharing national news on early childhood. As of the date of this report’s publication, OPSR had over 3,500 Facebook likes.

**Board Meetings**

The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness board meets quarterly to coordinate early childhood programs and services, monitor Oklahoma’s efforts to support early childhood, track legislation and support community partnerships.

These meetings follow the [Oklahoma Open Meeting Act](https://www.opsrfoundation.org/meeting-minutes) and as such provide the opportunity for community members to stay aware of OPSR’s plans, challenges and accomplishments as well as the work of other important issues and actions affecting early childhood.

To find OPSR Board meeting agendas and minutes, visit [www.opsrfoundation.org/meeting-minutes](http://www.opsrfoundation.org/meeting-minutes). And for a complete list of OPSR board members, see page 4 of this report.
2018 Early Childhood Research Symposium


Keynote presenters included Jacqueline Counts, director, Center for Public Partnerships and Research, University of Kansas and Kristen Shook Slack, professor, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The purpose of this research symposium was to bring state and national research to the attention of Oklahomans. Specifically, effective strategies to recruit, retain and engage families in early care and educational programs were highlighted.

OPSR’s wide and diverse group of stakeholders in both the public and private sectors were in attendance to show their support of and interest in improving outcomes for young children.

Poster abstract sessions also featured Oklahoma research about the importance of effective strategies for supporting and engaging families experiencing poverty.

Click any of the titles below to access a PDF of 2018’s presentations.

- “Supporting and Engaging Families Living in Poverty: Understanding Complex Barriers Families Face and Improving Marketing Strategies,” by Lana Beasley, associate professor, OSU.

- “Positive Parenting in the Face of Early Adversity: Does it Really Matter?,” by David Bard, associate professor, OU Health Sciences Center

- “How Do We Understand the Experience of Poverty? Making Meaning and Seeking Solutions, Parts One & Two,” by Jacqueline Counts, director, Center for Public Partnerships and Research, University of Kansas.


2018 Champion of Children

Bob Harbison

OPSR is grateful for Mr. Harbison’s over 20 years of advocacy and leadership in support of Oklahoma’s early childhood system.

OPSR is appreciative of the continued support of the following organizations who helped make the 2018 Early Childhood Research Symposium possible. Due to their generosity, we are able to continue our mission to improve school readiness. Thank you, Arnall Family Foundation, Chesapeake Energy, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Inasmuch Foundation, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, News 9, Potts Family Foundation, Sandbur Productions, TSET, University of Central Oklahoma’s Office of Research & Sponsored Programs and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
BUDGET AND FUNDING
Summary

For SFY2018, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness' budget was reduced by an additional $226,611.00 over SFY2017. In order for OPSR to continue to serve Oklahoma children and families in a meaningful way, the OPSR Foundation increased its budget.

Expenditures

SFY2010 to SFY2018 OPSR Total Expenditures

This information was provided by OPSR and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.
## BUDGET AND FUNDING

### Expenditures Cont.

### SFY2010 to SFY2018 OPSR Total Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State Support</th>
<th>OPSR Foundation</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>FY 2010</td>
<td>$1,894,962</td>
<td>$422,383</td>
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<td>FY 2011</td>
<td>$1,666,155</td>
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<td>FY 2012</td>
<td>$1,538,802</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2013</td>
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<td>FY 2014</td>
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<td>FY 2015</td>
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<td>FY 2016</td>
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<td>FY 2017</td>
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<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>$267,849</td>
<td>$465,516</td>
<td>$733,365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This information was provided by OPSR and is current as of Nov. 1, 2018.*


Open Meeting Act, Title 25 O.S. §§ 301-314 (2000).

“Parent and Children connected to health services,” Data Request, Oklahoma State Department of Health, 21 June 2018.


Riley, Joni, “Child Care Services,” Oklahoma Department of Human Services, 24 October 2018.


“Sharing early childhood information can support children’s development,” The Early Childhood Data Collaborative, ecedata.org, 2013.


