

SUMMIT PRE-K



A Summit County Strong Future Initiative
Annual Report for the 2021/2022 School Year



Dear Friends and Partners,

It is the third full year and I feel our team has finally found its groove for our programming. Another year behind us post-pandemic; teachers, parents and children were happy to see each other's faces without masks while they prepared for school readiness.

The early childhood community was struck with some hurdles, especially when it came to recruiting and retaining staff at all of our community child care and school district preschool classrooms. The Board of County Commissioners approved funding to help incentivize programs to offer staff a worthy wage at their programs. With this funding child care sites were able to offer a competitive hourly rate that brought teachers to their programs.

With our classrooms full and programs near full staff, we at Early Childhood Options debuted our Menu of Quality Services. This menu was designed to help provide high quality professional development as well as a retention award for a year of employment at each of our programs in Summit County.

The training calendar focused on providing professional development around our state quality rating system, Colorado Shines. All training was offered virtually at times that were most beneficial for attendance to a working professional in our field, mainly evenings and during nap times. We had a total of 78 participants, who attended 156 sessions offered on our training menu. A grand total of 377 professional development hours offered for the full program year.

ECO always appreciates the support from our community providers and partners. We look forward to continuing to adapt and evolve along with all of you as we report out on our programming.

Thank you for reading,



Catherine Schaaf
Program Director



It has been a game changer. For the first time since we had kids 9 years ago we aren't living pay check to pay check, or doing complex calculations to figure out if our salary will cover our childcare costs. My husband runs a small business--he has been able to actually work this past year instead of juggling childcare and squeeze his work into evenings and weekends.

--SPK Parent

PROGRAM DETAILS

The Summit Pre-K Program (SPK) helps to make high quality preschool possible for all Summit County 4-year olds in the year before they enter Kindergarten. Approved by voters in 2018, SPK is a Summit County taxpayer funded initiative. The local council, [Early Childhood Options \(ECO\)](#), serves as the managing agency. A community advisory board provides guidance and direction in the implementation of SPK.

To offset the high cost of quality preschool, SPK provides monthly tuition credits to families who meet the criteria below. Tuition credits are given to assist families with the cost of preschool and are paid directly to the participating preschool program, child care center or family child care provider on behalf of the eligible child(ren). Tuition credits are administered on a sliding scale.

Tuition credit funding levels are based on:

- Gross Family Income
- Number of total children aged 0-3 enrolled in childcare
- [Colorado Shines](#) quality rating (only programs Level 2 or higher are eligible to participate)
- Enrollment in other programs such as [CCCAP](#), [Head Start](#) and/or [Colorado Preschool Program](#)

SPK is funded by the County, the [Board of County Commissioners](#) (BOCC) is the oversight body. ECO manages the overall program. SPK funds a full-time Early Childhood Education Registrar position, housed at the [Summit School District](#), to coordinate data collection and reporting at the child, classroom and aggregate levels. ECO coordinates coaching and quality improvement support to teaching staff, in partnership with the Summit School District Preschool Coordinator. This robust partnership with the County, ECO and the School District was designed to ensure a high quality and accountable mixed delivery system.

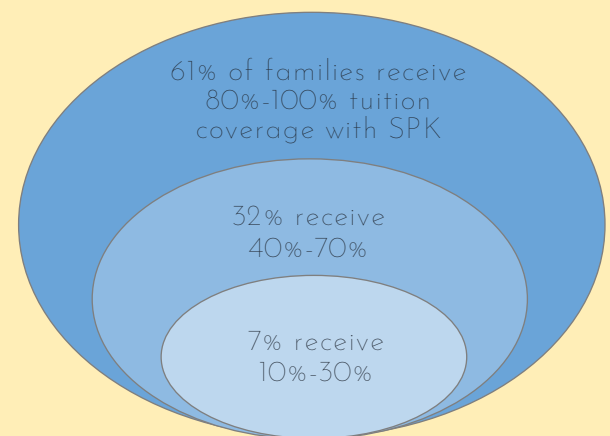
SUMMIT COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

10 Years

Average number of years our SPK parents have lived in Summit County

\$7,590

Average amount SPK families save in tuition costs annually. Annual savings ranged from \$373 to \$16,470!



SPK has literally made it possible for us to continue living in Summit County. I am very grateful that we live in a community where voters have recognized the need for access to quality childcare. We are incredibly grateful!

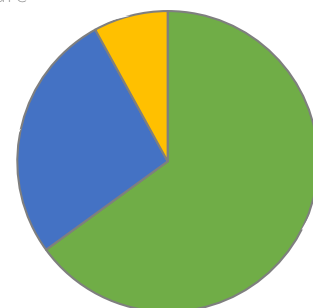
--SPK Parent

Distribution of SPK Students

Family Childcare
Homes 8%

10 Summit
School
District
Classrooms
27%

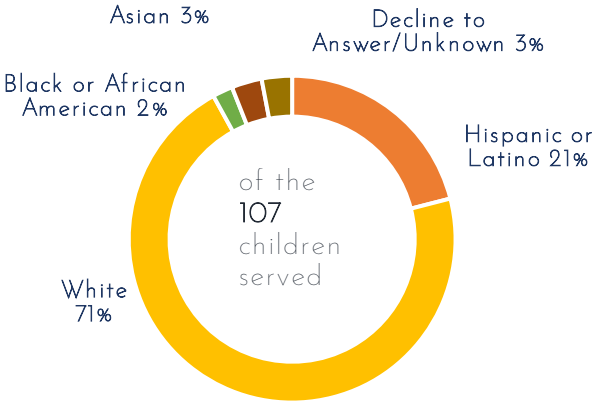
Community
Based
Childcare
Centers
65%



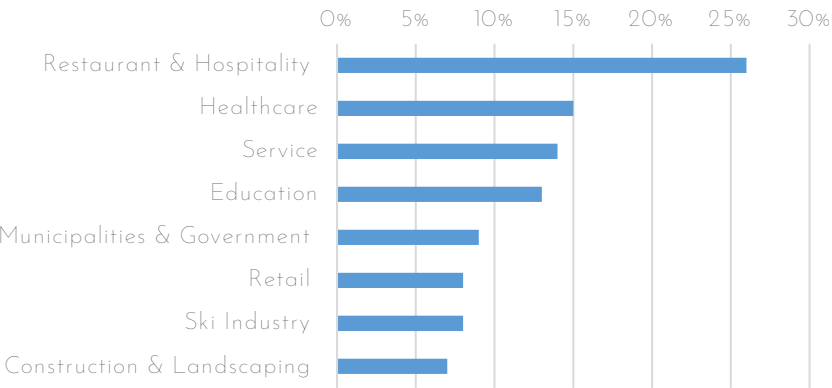
WHO WE SERVE



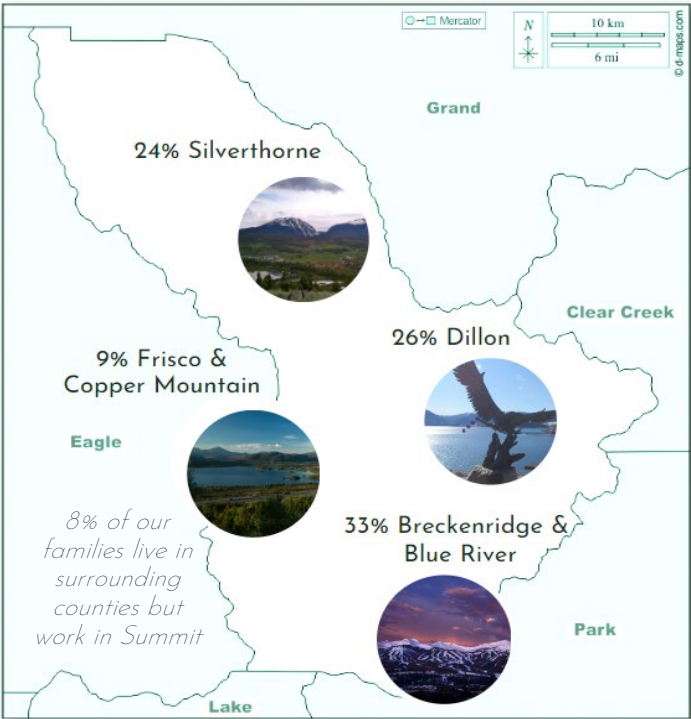
Race & Ethnicity of our SPK students



Top Industries for our SPK Families

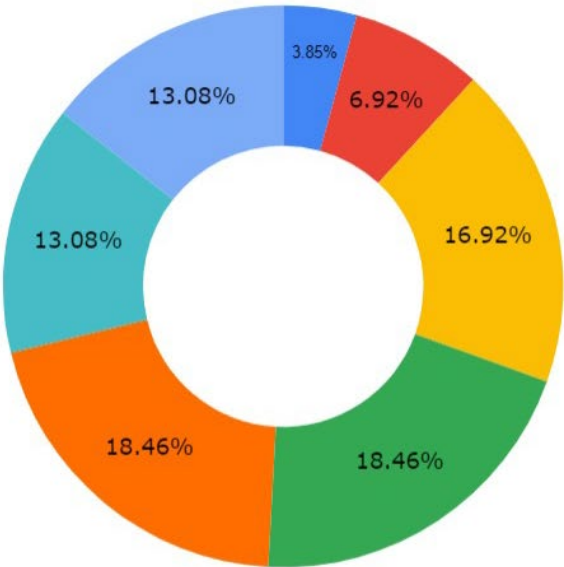


Where our Families Live



SPK Families Annual Salary Range Based on Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Percentages
In 2021, the minimum sufficient income for a family of 4 was \$26,500 according to federal governmental standards

- 0-99% (\$0 - \$26,400)
- 100-199% (\$26,500 - \$53,000)
- 200-299% (\$53,100 - \$78,900)
- 300-399% (\$79,000 - \$105,400)
- 400-499% (\$105,500 - \$131,300)
- 500-599% (\$131,400 - \$157,500)
- 600+% (\$157,600+)



COUNTYWIDE FUNDING OPTIONS

In addition to SPK, Summit County 4 year olds may be eligible for the following funding options:

- * **Head Start**: Started in 1965, Head Start is a national, income-based program serving **22 PreK** students and **13 Preschoolers** in Summit County.
- * **Preschool Special Education**: Preschool special education is a state and mandated program for three and four year old children who are experiencing challenges in their learning and development and meet state eligibility criteria for special education and related services.
- * **Colorado Preschool Program** (CPP): A state-funded early childhood education program administered by the Colorado Department of Education. , **53 four year olds** receive CPP countywide.
- * **The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program**: (CCCAP) helps families that are homeless, working, searching for work or in school find low-income child care assistance. Families that are enrolled in the Colorado Works Program can also use CCCAP services.

Of the 244
4 year olds in Summit
County,* 211 are enrolled
in licensed childcare &
86% receive tuition
assistance!!

* Office, C. S. D. (n.d.). Single Year of Age Data. Colorado
Demography. From
<https://coloradodemography.github.io/population/data/sya-county/>



PROGRAM GOALS

- * **CLASS®** assessments **2 times** a year & **TS Gold assessments** **3 times** a year in participating centers.
- * Professional Development through **Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System** (PDIS). A one-stop online resource for training related to early care and learning. PDIS offers a broad array of e-learning courses addressing all aspects of child development, health and safety, and quality instruction. PDIS is designed to support a variety of early childhood professionals at all levels of experience and education.*
- * Provide education of local programs to hard-to-reach populations.
- * A new child care center to be built in partnership with the Town of Silverthorne and the Summit County Government in the north end of the County.

*FOR PROFESSIONALS; TOOLS TO ADVANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CAREER (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.coloradoshines.com/professionals>

SPOTLIGHT ON MENU OF QUALITY SERVICES

The [Menu of Quality Services](#) is series of training opportunities offered by [Early Childhood Options \(ECO\)](#) for local ECE Professionals. According to Catherine Schaaf, Program Director at ECO, the goal of the program is to *"Keep elements of quality in the forefront of our interactions with Right Start and Summit PreK partners. Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support are the pathways to ensuring that all children learn. We promise to invest in educators because they are preparing our youngest learners for success in kindergarten and beyond."*

Interview with Teachers Kenia Foster & Monica O'Connell from Rocky Mountain Montessori

By: Catherine Schaaf,
Program Director at Early Childhood Options

Did the Menu of Quality support the necessary training requirements required as an ECE professional in Summit County?

Kenia: The quality of the menu supported the necessary training requirements as an ECE professional in Summit County. It provided references and important feedback.

Did you feel more comfortable and confident in your professional role due to the quality of trainings?

Monica: I did feel more confident after taking the trainings and with some it was a refresher of trainings I've done in the past which benefits

Did the training format and schedule work well with your busy schedule?

Monica: The schedule worked ok, some of the trainings were after work. However I did see some trainings that I wanted to take but I wasn't able to take because I was working. I would love to make all trainings available after working hours too.

What session was the most valuable/you learned the most from to implement into practice?

Kenia: I enjoyed all the sessions. Kim and Jessee are professionals who properly directed us step by step and made the sessions more enjoyable.

Monica: I honestly really felt like I needed the new PDIS training because it's so confusing now. It helped immensely.

Based on the your experience with the Menu of Services from this past year, are you planning on attending sessions this year?

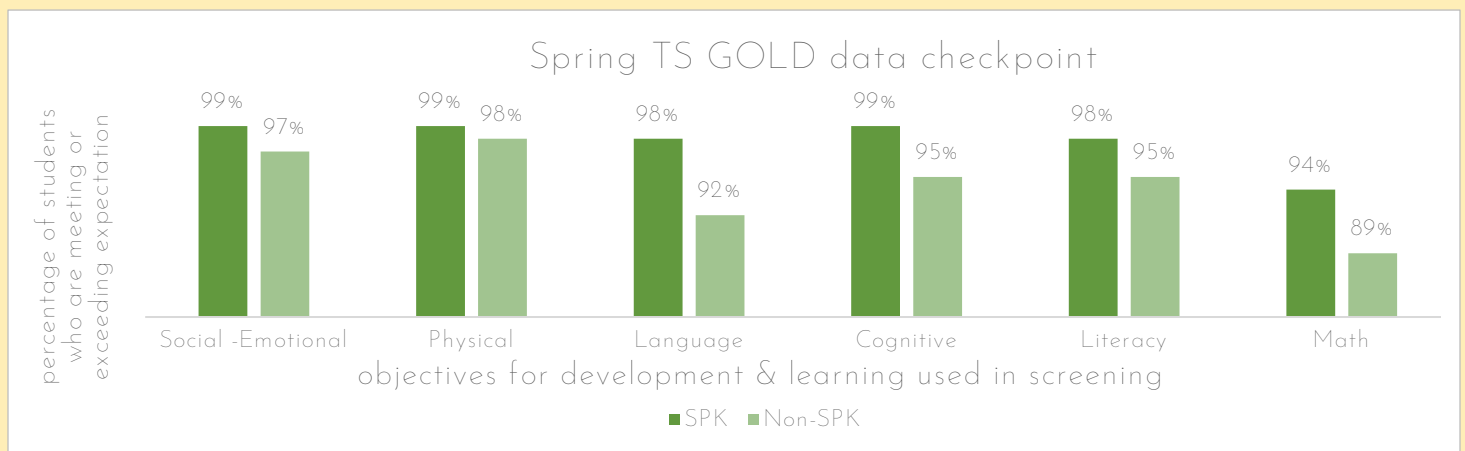
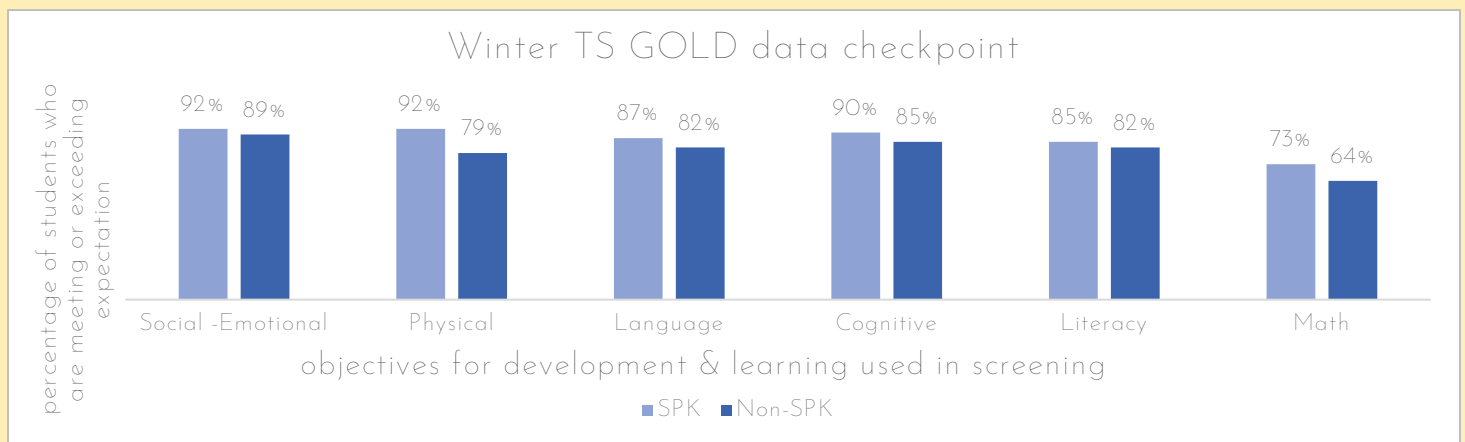
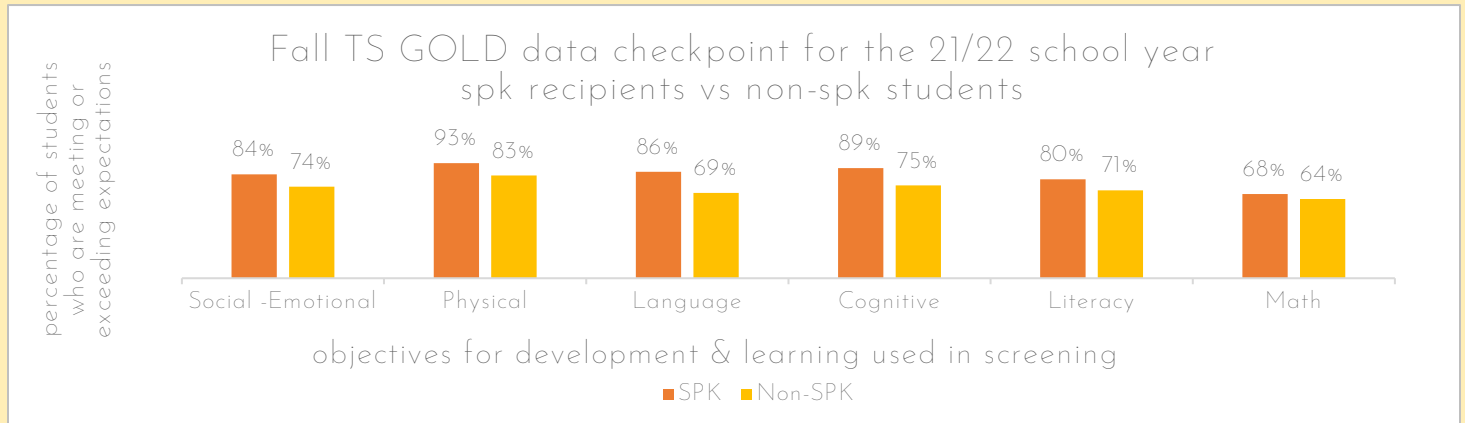
Monica: . I would love to take more trainings for sure and I want to be able to take the trainings that I wasn't able to due to my work schedule.



TS GOLD DATA

The assessment model used in GOLD follows Widely Held Expectations for children from birth through third grade and enables a whole-child approach to assessment.*

*Understand Each Child's Needs Based on Developmentally Appropriate Milestones (n.d.) Retrieved from <https://teachingstrategies.com/product/gold/>



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The Summit Pre-K Team includes:

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Jessee Blumentritt, Education Coordinator | Early Childhood Options

Kim Guarino, Early Childhood Registrar | Summit School District