

# SUMMIT PRE-K



# A Summit County Strong Future Initiative

## Annual Report for the 2022/2023 School Year



**Dear Friends and Partners,**

Welcome to year four of programming, we are finally hitting our stride with outreach to eligible families to participate in our Summit PreK tuition credits. This year was strong with lots of conversations surrounding growing our program even more for the future. A lot of community conversations about waitlists and supporting the increasing demand for child care in our community.

In partnership with the Town of Silverthorne and Summit County Government, we are getting extremely close to opening our first child care center within the Town of Silverthorne. This will provide some immediate relief to those who live and work in the north end of our community. By next program year, this site will be able to offer child care for children ages 8 weeks- 5 years old. They will employ 20-25 teachers, and serve a few Head Start Children in partnership with Early Childhood Options.

We are happy to report an 89% increase in professional development hours on our Menu of Quality Services, with 81 individuals participating and offering 715 hours of training to the Early Childhood Community of Summit County.

Summit PreK Program continues to support teacher retention with its wage compensation supplements across the community, raising the average teacher hourly wage county wide to \$25.78, with a retention average of 2 years.

Another successful year of providing high quality childcare to our 3- and 4-year-olds of Summit County, in preparation for Kindergarten in the next few years. We here at ECO look forward to continuing community conversations at expanding program to provide county wide tuition assistance, making it an equitable program for all those North to South of Summit County,

Thank you for reading,

*Cathleen Schaaf*

Executive Director, Early Childhood Options



# PROGRAM DETAILS

The Summit Pre-K Program (SPK) helps to make high quality preschool possible for all Summit County 3- and 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

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

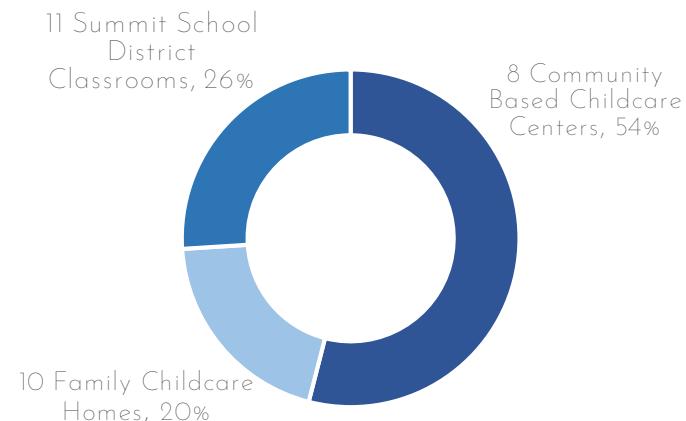
**\$7,487**  
Average amount SPK families save in tuition costs annually. Annual savings ranged from **\$800** to **\$19,070**.

Of the **312** 3- and 4-year-old students in the County **57%** of the slots are fully or partially funded through SPK.

The additional **134** student slots are funded through

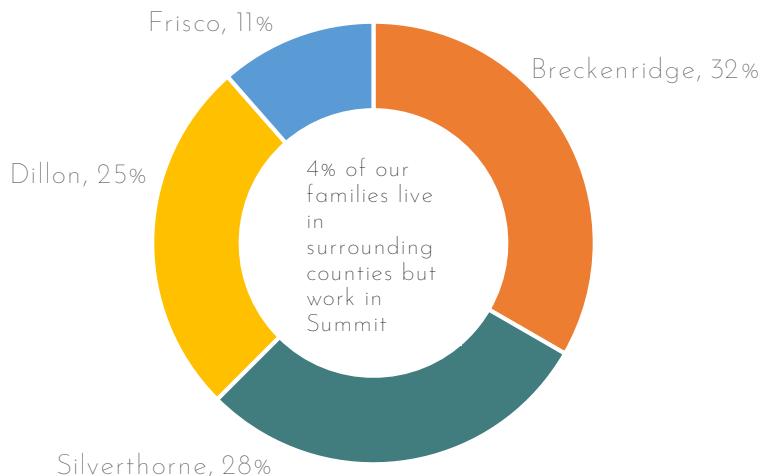
- \* The Colorado Preschool Program: **?**
- \* Head Start: **35 students**
- \* Colorado Child Care Assistance Program
- \* Private-pay tuition or a combination

### Distribution of SPK Students

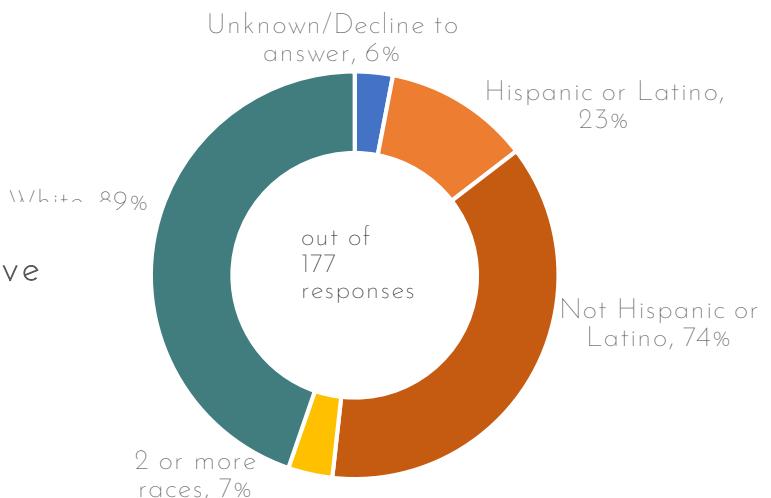


# WHO WE SERVE

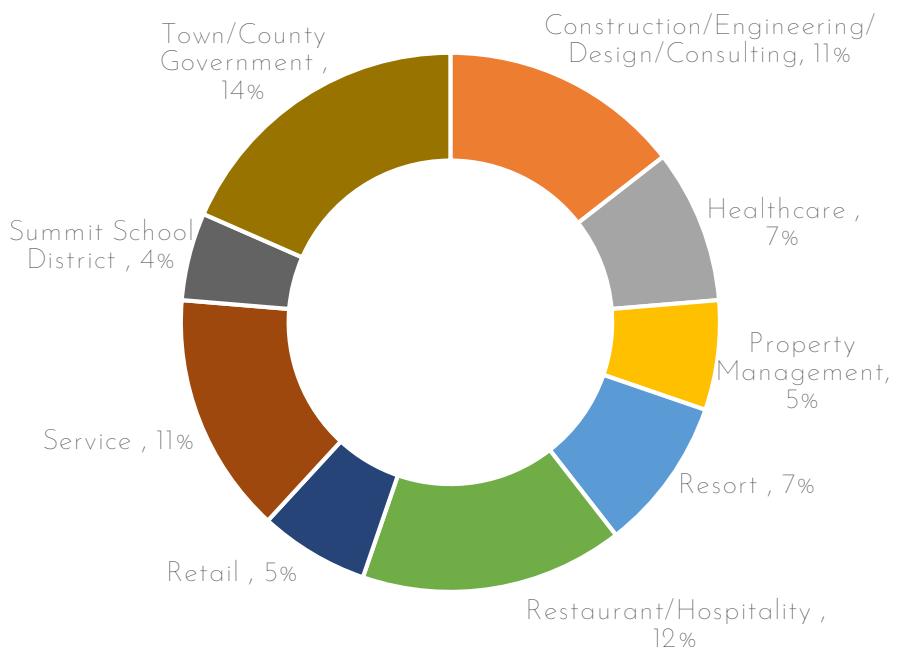
## Where Our SPK Families Live



## Race & Ethnicity of our SPK Students

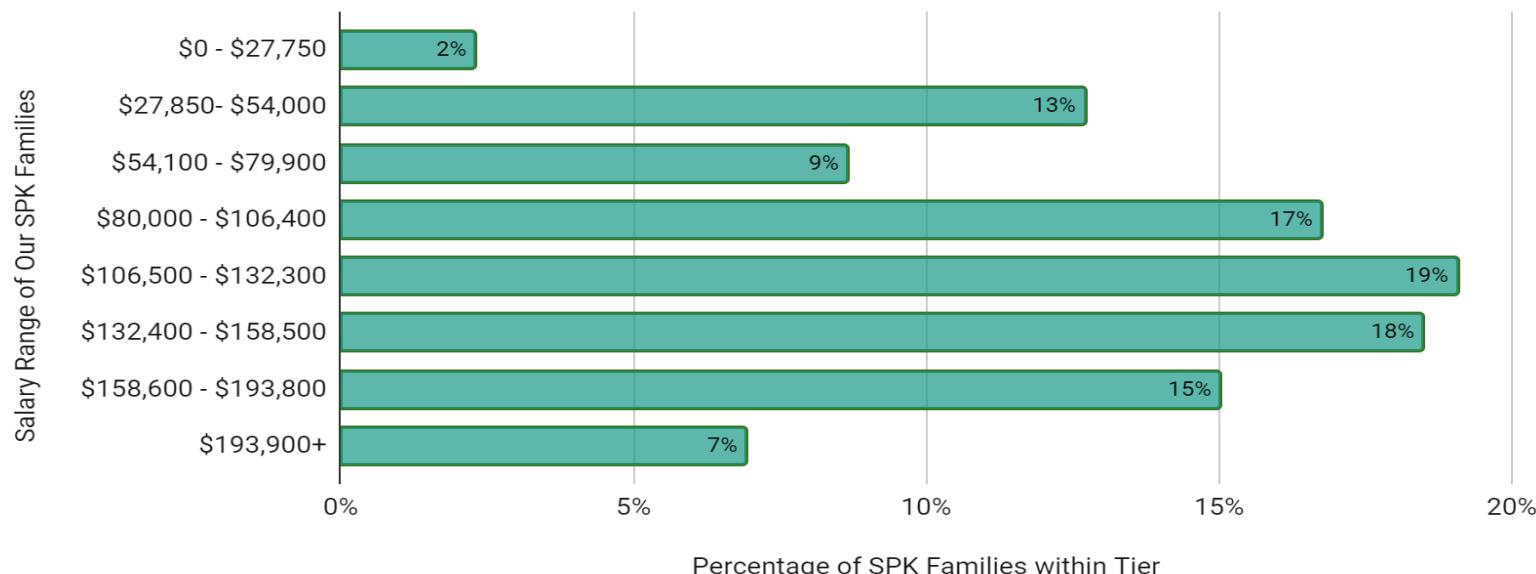


## Top Industries for our SPK families



*Without this program we wouldn't be able to afford childcare, and thus we wouldn't be able to live in Summit. --SPK Parent*

SPK Families Annual Salary Ranges Based on Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In 2022, the minimum sufficient income for a family of 4 was \$27,750 according to federal governmental



# 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.



*Wildflower Nature School scheduled to open in Silverthorne in September 2023*

*There is really no other way to put it, if this program, and others like it, didn't exist we would have moved when we decided to have children in Summit County. There wouldn't have been an option to stay because we wouldn't have been able to stay out of the red. If this program didn't exist with one child in care, we would have had to rely heavily on food programs to feed our family. If this program didn't exist while we have two children in care there wouldn't have been an option to stay, work and volunteer locally and we would have had to relocate away.*

*--SPK Parent*

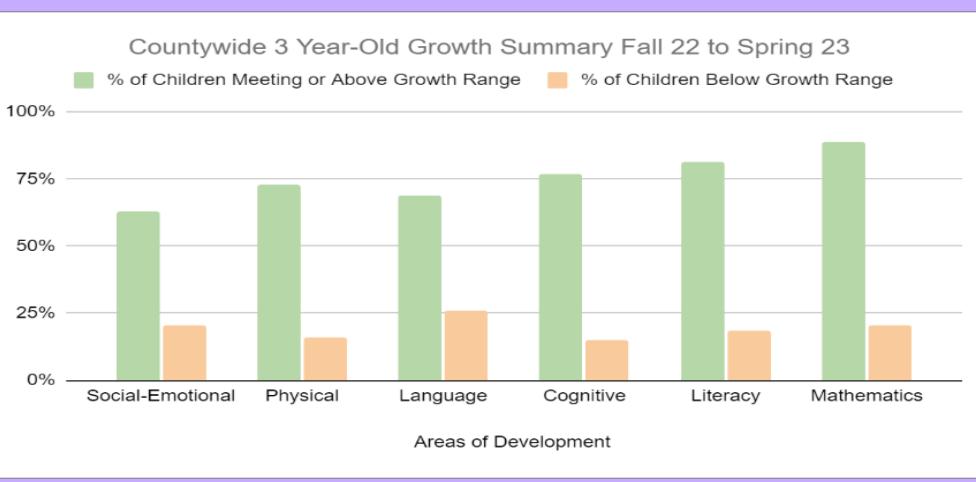
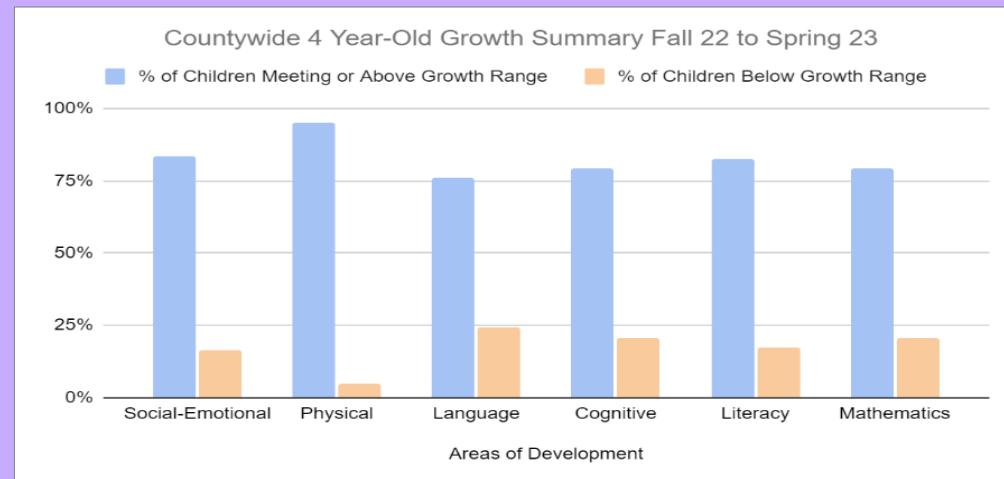
# TS GOLD DATA

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/>

Growth Data looks at the movement of *GOLD* checkpoint ratings across the progression of development and learning that typically takes place over the course of a school year. **All children's knowledge, skills, and abilities may not meet widely held expectations by the end of the school year, but all children should make progress toward their next developmental milestone.** Because growth expectations are based on a full school year, not on a checkpoint period, the Growth (Birth through Third Grade) Report was generated at the end of the school year to evaluate the growth that took place throughout the year.\*

\*<https://teachingstrategies.my.site.com/portal/s/article/How-do-I-interpret-the-Growth-Birth-Through-Third-Grade-Report-in-MyTeachingStrategies?r=0&ui-knowledge-aloha-components-aura-components->



330 Fiedler Avenue, PO Box 335  
Dillon, CO 80435 | 970-513-1170  
[www.earlychildhoodoptions.org](http://www.earlychildhoodoptions.org)

## The Summit Pre-K Team includes:

Catherine Schaaf, Executive Director | Early Childhood Options  
Michelle Mahoney, Tuition Assistance Manager | Early Childhood Options  
Kimberly Theller, PhD, Operations Director | Early Childhood Options  
Jessee Blumentritt, Education Coordinator | Early Childhood Options  
Kim Guarino, Early Childhood Registrar | Summit School District