

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Preschool Development Grant Birth-Five?

Delaware was awarded a \$4.2 million Preschool Development Grant (PDG B-5) to help strengthen its early childhood mixed delivery system. Delaware’s early childhood mixed delivery system includes private and public programs and services provided in a diverse range of settings such as homes, private child care centers, faith- and community-based child care centers, school districts, and many others.

This federal grant will allow Delaware to improve the design of our system so that all children receive high quality early learning experiences and have successful transitions prior to and into kindergarten. The grant requires Delaware to complete a comprehensive statewide birth through five needs assessment and subsequently develop a strategic plan. The grant also requires the state to determine how data systems can be put in place to understand the population of all children and their families and make decisions on how to best meet their diverse needs.

[Check out Delaware’s PDG B-5 website, which has our full application posted, here.](#)

What are the guiding principles of our work?

Delaware commits to all children and families having access to an integrated early childhood system, from birth through third grade, which provides high-quality services and environments that support their growth, development, and learning, and prepares them for success in school and life.

While the activities proposed in this grant application are focused for children birth through age five (B-5), Delaware embraces high-quality birth to age eight services as part of a broader statewide strategy to ensure that children’s transitions from the B-5 system into the K-12 system are seamless. Five core principles (described below) guide Delaware’s vision for quality, coordination, alignment, and efficiency of programs and services within the state’s early childhood mixed delivery system.

- Whole-Child Development.
- Birth-Through-Third Grade Learning.
- Family Knowledge and Choice.
- Inclusion and Access for All.
- Collaboration Across Sectors, Agencies, and Organizations.

[Read more about our guiding principles in Delaware’s PDG B-5 application on page 7 of 61](#), using the bookmark “B-5 Mixed Delivery System Vision.”

Who is managing the PDG B-5 project?

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) within the Department of Education is the lead agency responsible for coordinating the grant activities. A Birth-Five Accountability Committee has been named to oversee the grant project. This team includes representatives from all agencies who touch children birth to five and their families, from the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Department of Education (DOE), Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families (DSCYF), and Delaware Department of Technology and Information (DTI). Advisors to the project include the Interagency Resource Management Committee and the Delaware Early Childhood Council.

What exactly is the work supported by the PDG B-5 grant?

Over the next six months, the team will conduct a needs assessment and develop the strategic plan. The needs assessment will be complete towards the end of September and is divided into two parts: 1) mapping the experiences of families and learning from early childhood professionals to identify opportunities to coordinate services across the B-5 mixed delivery system with human-centered designs, especially at key transition points; and 2) assessing how the State can integrate B-5 data systems, including how to count the unduplicated number of children receiving and awaiting services in the State's mixed delivery system. We are particularly excited about the work we are undertaking to understand and design processes from the perspective of Delaware families. This approach will ensure children and families are at the center of our strategies for future improvements.

Developing the strategic plan will follow the needs assessment and is currently scheduled to be complete at the end of 2019. Both activities, the needs assessment and strategic plan, will draw upon diverse stakeholders from across the state with an emphasis on understanding the availability of services and the experiences of vulnerable and underserved children.

How is this work connected to other statewide early childhood initiatives?

This project will build on the progress Delaware has made in strengthening its services and supports for its youngest citizens and their families and provides an opportunity to update the Delaware Early Childhood Council's strategic plan that ended in 2018. Our goal is for the PDG B-5 work to integrate initiatives that are already underway or beginning soon. These include the integration of the Office of Child Care Licensing into the Department of Education; the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program needs assessment; trauma informed care training; Delaware Readiness Teams' kindergarten registration campaign; investments in longitudinal data systems; and the revision of Delaware Stars, to name only a few.

How can I share about my experiences in the early childhood mixed delivery system?

If you are interested in sharing your story, please go to our [user experience needs assessment website](https://www.earlylearningde.com/). There, you can learn more about our process and ways to engage in this important work: <https://www.earlylearningde.com/>

How do I stay engaged?

Continue to [check out Delaware's PDG B-5 website](#) for updates, opportunities to engage in the work, and connections to social media.

Thank you for your support of our youngest citizens' growth, development, and learning!