



Preschool for All Seat Goals

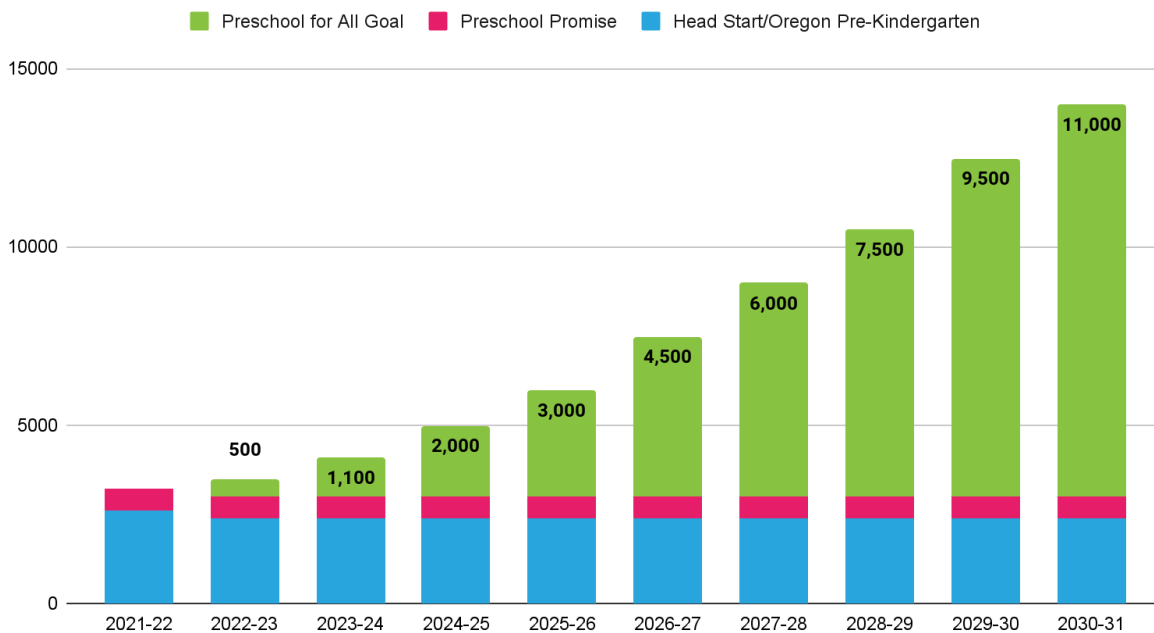
Preschool for All (PFA) provides free, quality preschool to 3- and 4-year-olds in Multnomah County.

Voters approved PFA in November 2020. The program is designed to grow over time, increasing the number of children it serves each year. By 2030, there will be a free preschool seat for every Multnomah County family who wants one!

The program builds on state and federal investments in preschool. PFA leverages Preschool Promise and Head Start funding and does not replace those seats.

PFA's goal of universal preschool access by 2030 has not changed since Multnomah County published the PFA plan in July 2020. In 2022, the County revised the yearly seat goals to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the child care industry. But the ultimate goal remains the same, and we are on track to reach it.

Current Preschool for All Goals



This graph shows how PFA builds on state and federal investments in preschool. The blue and pink parts of each bar represent Head Start and Preschool Promise seats. The Preschool for All seat goal for each year is represented by the green part of the bar, and the total number of PFA seats is written in black.

Revisions to the Preschool for All Goals in 2022

Shortly after voters approved Preschool for All, COVID-19 devastated the child care industry. Across the nation, 63 percent of child care centers and 27 percent of family child care homes were closed in spring 2020.¹

By 2022, the industry was still deeply struggling to recover. Many providers couldn't find staff, and were experiencing burnout and financial challenges from the pandemic. In March of 2022, Multnomah County still had 25 percent fewer child care providers compared to February 2020.

This information, along with data gathered from the first year of PFA provider applications and many conversations with providers in our community, made it clear that the yearly growth projected in the original PFA ballot measure wasn't going to be possible.

Even so, PFA stayed committed to creating universal preschool by 2030. The changes to the original plan's yearly seat goals were for years 2-7 to create a realistic growth timeline. These revisions were made in 2022 and shared with the Board of County Commissioners in May 2023.

The yearly seat goals will not be adjusted again as the program grows to universal preschool access in 2030.

Comparison of Revised Goals to the Original Goals

	Original Plan # of PFA Seats	Revised Goals # of PFA Seats	Actual # of PFA Seats
Year 1: 2022-23	500-1000	500	728
Year 2: 2023-24	1500-2000	1100	1394
Year 3: 2024-25	3000-3500	2000	2225
Year 4: 2025-26	4500-5000	3000	3800*
Year 5: 2026-27	6500-7000	4500	
Year 6: 2027-28	7500-8000	6000	
Year 7: 2028-29	8500-9000	7500	
Year 8: 2029-30	9500-10,250	9500	
Year 9: 2030-31	10,500-11,600	11,000	

**This number is the Year 4 estimate as of March 2025.*

Future Changes to the PFA Seat Goals

These goals will remain in place through 2030 when the program reaches universal access.

¹ Department of Health and Human Services, [National Snapshot of State Agency Approaches to Child Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)