

Exhibit 4: Universal and Targeted Early Childhood Education Programs

Reported by National Research Coordinators

Early Childhood Educational Development (ECED) programs are for children under age 3, and Preprimary Education (PPE) programs are for children age 3 or older. Universal programs are accessible and available to all children (but all children do not necessarily attend these programs), while targeted programs are designed to support certain subgroups.

Country	Universal Programs			Targeted Programs		
	ECED	PPE	Number of Years Students May Attend Programs	ECED	PPE	Description of Programs or Initiatives
Albania	○	●	3	●	●	Targeted PPE programs are developed by the Agency of Quality Assurance in Pre-university Education. They are described in the Curriculum Framework of Pre-school education (https://ascap.edu.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Korniza-Kurrikulare-e-arsimit-parashkollorit-IZHA-Dhjetor-2016.pdf).
Armenia	●	●	3	○	○	n/a
Australia	○	●	2	●	●	Targeted ECED and PPE program coverage varies by state but entails either specific funding to attend the programs or provision of special programs for children from low socioeconomic status backgrounds, indigenous children, children from refugee families, multiple birth children, and/or children under child protection programs.
Austria	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Azerbaijan	○	●	1	○	○	n/a
Bahrain	○	●	3	○	○	n/a
Belgium (Flemish)	○	●	3	●	●	For ECED programs, priority access is given to families who need childcare to enable parents to work, single-parent families, families with low incomes, families with foster children, and vulnerable families. For PPE programs, additional resources are provided to schools with a high population of children from families with low socioeconomic status to ensure full access to preprimary education for all. There are separate PPE classes for children that will be directed toward special education because of severe intellectual or physical disabilities.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	○	○	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Bulgaria	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Canada	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Chile	○	○	4 or more	●	●	Under the Chile Grows With You law (2009), children from low-income families are guaranteed access to half-day nursery school or kindergarten programs. Children whose parents are working, studying, or looking for work are guaranteed access to extended-hours nursery school or kindergarten programs.
Chinese Taipei	●	●	4 or more	○	○	According to legislation, public preschools give priority enrollment to children on offshore islands or in remote areas and those who need assistance economically, physically or mentally, culturally, or ethnically.
Croatia	●	●	4 or more	○	○	ECED and PPE programs are organized for all groups of children including certain subgroups, such as children from low-income families and children from minority groups.
Cyprus	○	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Czech Republic	○	●	4 or more	○	●	The targeted PPE programs are guaranteed by the School Act and used for the education of children with special needs, such as health, and children from different cultural environments and living conditions. Preschool education is compulsory for a child who reaches the age of 5 by the beginning of the school year. This requirement was introduced as of the 2017-2018 school year. The last year of preprimary class is free of charge.
Denmark	●	●	4 or more	●	○	Targeted ECED programs are compulsory for 1-year-old children who live in a socially vulnerable area and do not participate in a universal ECED program.
Egypt	○	○	4 or more	○	○	n/a

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	ECED	PPE	Number of Years Students May Attend Programs	ECED	PPE	Description of Programs or Initiatives
England	○	●	4 or more	●	●	Children are eligible for free ECED provisions from the school term after their second birthday if their parents meet prescribed means-tested criteria or if the child has special education needs, has a disability, or is in public care. Local authorities are required to secure sufficient places offering 570 hours per year, over 38–52 weeks. Children age 3 and older are entitled to additional free hours if a parent has a current positive determination of eligibility from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).
Finland	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
France	○	●	4 or more	○	○	Children can be enrolled in preprimary education (<i>école maternelle</i>) starting at age 2. In 2017, 12% of 2-year-olds, 97% of 3-year-olds, 99% of 4-year-olds, and 100% of 5-year-olds were enrolled.
Georgia	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Germany	●	●	4 or more	●	●	Under Social Security Code VIII (<i>Achtes Buch Sozialgesetzbuch Kinder-und Jugendhilfe</i> (R60)), the provision of education and care in daycare centers and child-minding services is adjusted to the individual child's age and developmental stage, linguistic capabilities, and life situation and interests, taking into account the child's ethnic origin in heterogeneous groups. The range of services offered is based on the needs of the children and their families. For children whose development is significantly impaired and for children with disabilities, the necessary help should be offered in an integrative form in a daycare facility for the purpose of joint care that includes all children. The daycare staff combines common education of all children with individual support, which equalizes personal and social disadvantages and contributes to more equal opportunities for children regardless of gender, or social or ethnic origin.
Hong Kong SAR	○	●	3	○	○	n/a
Hungary	○	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	○	●	2	○	●	There is a 1-month PPE program before beginning Grade 1 for children of low-income families and for those who speak a language other than Farsi at home.
Ireland	○	●	4 or more	○	●	The Early Start Programme is a 1-year PPE preventative intervention scheme offered in selected DEIS institutions (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools, under the Department of Education and Skills (DES) Action Plan for Educational Inclusion). This preschool program is managed, funded, and evaluated by DES; its primary objective is to tackle educational disadvantage by targeting children who are at risk of not reaching their potential within the school system. Children must be between 3 years and 2 months and 4 years and 7 months on September 1 of the year in which they are enrolled in either Early Start or the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme. DES also funds 134 Early Intervention preschool classes for children between the ages of 3 and 6 with autism spectrum disorder that are attached to recognized primary schools. Early Intervention classes have a small student-to-teacher ratio (6:1) and multiple Special Needs Assistants.
Israel	●	●	4 or more	○	○	PPE is universally provided and accessible to all 3-year-olds, regardless of socioeconomic, cultural, or ethnic background. About 25% of children under age 3 attend supervised kindergartens (ECED) that follow universal programs.
Italy	○	●	3	○	○	Targeted programs are not provided, but there are a small number of PPE schools for children with disabilities (e.g., blind or deaf).

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Japan	●	●	3	○	○	Children ages 3–5 attend PPE programs offered at kindergarten and daycare centers for free. ECED programs are also available for children below age 3, with tuition, but tuition is waived for low-income families. There are PPE programs for children with disabilities.
Jordan	○	●	2	○	●	The Ministry of Education provides targeted PPE programs for Kindergarten 2 (KG2) in remote and economically disadvantaged areas.
Kazakhstan	●	●	3	●	●	The aim of the ECED program is the positive socialization of children from birth to 3 years old; familiarizing them with sociocultural norms, traditions of the family, society and the state; and developing their social skills and self-study skills. The goal of PPE is the formation of spiritual and moral values, knowledge, skills and abilities in children in accordance with their age and individual capabilities, the upbringing of universal values, patriotism and tolerance, based on the national idea of "Mangilik El", as well as socio-psychological, personal, strong-willed, physical and intellectual preparation of children for school.
Korea, Rep. of	●	●	4 or more	○	○	Early childhood education and care programs are provided to all children ages 0–5, and daycare centers established by the government, local authorities, and other nonprofit corporations give priority enrollment to disadvantaged children.
Kosovo	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Kuwait	○	●	3	○	○	n/a
Latvia	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Lebanon	○	●	3	○	○	PPE is available for students in public and private schools and is highly recommended for all learners. Parents may choose between private or public school.
Lithuania	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Malaysia	●	●	4 or more	●	●	Targeted PPE programs are offered by Early Childhood Care and Education (public and private sectors) for children ages 4–6 from low-income families. Parents can choose to enroll their child in public (government) preschool or private preschool. The GENIUS Negara Program under the Ministry of Education, targets children from low-income families.
Malta	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Montenegro	●	●	4 or more	●	●	There is a specialized program that defines the form and content of educational work for children with disabilities and developmental difficulties, children without parental care, children whose parents receive social benefits, and children from the most vulnerable groups (including children facing difficulties due to social, linguistic, and cultural obstacles). Preschool education is free for all children from vulnerable groups.
Morocco	○	●	2	○	●	The Ministry of Education used to establish special classes in a limited number of schools for students with special needs. The focus of the syllabus was on educational games incorporating letters, numbers, shapes, colors, etc. A shift to integrate students with special needs in regular classes is being developed now. The syllabus is an introduction to literacy and numeracy using techniques involving play and games.

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Netherlands	○	○	2	●	●	<i>Voor-en Vroegschoolse Educatie (VVE)</i> is meant for children ages 2–5 who have a deficiency in language or general development; these programs are not compulsory but enable children to learn in a playful manner before they begin primary school. Children typically attend 2 times per week but may attend more often if their development is behind that of their peers. The municipality is responsible for VVE and is responsible for implementing the national ECED and PPE programs. VVE pays particular attention to language development (e.g., vocabulary), basic mathematics (e.g., counting, measuring and orientation in space and time), development of fine and gross motor skills, and social-emotional development, including independence, self-confidence, and playing with peers.
New Zealand	○	●	3	○	○	Free hours are available to all universal PPE programs, regardless of family income, or the family or child's immigration status. Targeted funding is provided to early childhood education (ECE) services and <i>ngā kōhanga reo</i> with high proportions (20% or above) of children (<i>tamariki</i>) from disadvantaged backgrounds.
North Macedonia	●	●	4 or more	●	●	There is a specialized program that defines the form and content of education for children with disabilities and developmental difficulties. Preschool education is free for all children from vulnerable groups.
Northern Ireland	○	●	1	●	●	Sure Start is a government program that provides a range of support services for parents and children under age 4 who live in disadvantaged areas. It aims to give children the best start in life by supporting parents from pregnancy to early childhood. Sure Start complements the work of existing local services and provides young families with advice on addressing specialized needs or difficulties.
Norway	●	●	4 or more	○	○	By law, all children have the right to preprimary education, but it is not mandatory. The municipalities are responsible for providing preprimary education, either by running public kindergartens or by supporting private kindergartens.
Oman	○	○	3	○	●	Targeted PPE programs are provided in private schools.
Pakistan	○	●	2	○	○	n/a
Philippines	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Poland	○	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Portugal	○	●	3	○	○	n/a
Qatar	●	●	2	○	○	n/a
Romania	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Russian Federation	○	●	4 or more	○	●	Targeted PPE programs are provided for children ages 3 or older with impaired hearing, vision, physical health, or mental development.
Saudi Arabia	○	●	2	○	○	n/a

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Serbia	●	●	4 or more	●	●	Legislation provides for 3 types of targeted programs: special, specialized, and other. They are intended for children from the most vulnerable social groups, including children with special needs, Roma children, and children from rural and economically deprived communities and families. Special programs are comprehensive educational programs aimed at the overall development of the child and include additional support for families. Specialized programs are narrower educational programs with an emphasis on the individual preferences of the child or that relate to different areas of educational work with children. The education institution may, to adapt to the specific needs of children and families, organize other programs (e.g. for socialization, cultivating creative expression, etc.), as well as multiday programs at the institution. Public preschools give priority enrollment to children who need economic, physical, mental, or cultural support.
Singapore	○	○	4 or more	●	●	The Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) runs the Preschool Outreach Programme targeting low-income families with children age 3 or older who are not already enrolled in a PPE program. The program works with outreach agencies to visit these families and assist them with placement in a PPE program by aiding in the registration process, preparing supporting documents needed for subsidy applications, addressing other needs the families may have with regard to enrollment, and then continuing to follow up with the families until the child has achieved regular attendance. ECDA introduced KidSTART in 2016, a pilot program to provide an ecosystem of support for low-income children and their families in areas ranging from child development to health and parenting skills. Preschools also provide programs for children with learning and other developmental needs. Additionally, a variety of methods are used to offset the cost of ECED and PPE programs, including grant subsidies and fee caps.
Slovak Republic	○	●	3	○	○	n/a
South Africa	○	●	1	○	○	n/a
Spain	○	●	4 or more	●	○	The first cycle of ECED programs is not free, but since 2006, there has been a gradual increase in the number of publicly funded schools in collaboration with regional education authorities. Public school authorities establish the fees and typically regulate the maximum public cost after taking into account the following criteria: having multiple children attending the same school, family income, extended school hours, and use of the canteen service. The second cycle of this noncompulsory educational stage (PPE) is free, leading to an enrollment rate close to 100%.
Sweden	●	●	4 or more	○	○	In 2018, preschool class (for children ages 6 and 7) was made mandatory. Preschool has its own curriculum that is closely linked to that of primary school, and preschool classes are often located in the same building as primary school.
Turkey	○	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
United Arab Emirates	○	●	2	○	○	The government provides PPE programs that include kindergarten for all Emirati children from age 3 years and 8 months, regardless of families' socioeconomic status.

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United States	Varies by state	Varies by state	4 or more	●	●	The Head Start or Early Head Start programs offer targeted federal entitlement programs for low-income families who meet specific requirements. There are also targeted entitlement programs for children with disabilities. The specifics of the services delivered by the Head Start or Early Head Start programs differ across states and are shaped by the needs of the local communities being targeted. There are 17 states that require districts to offer full-day kindergarten programs, and 28 states that require half-day programs. The majority of states require that the kindergarten entrance age be 5 years old.
Benchmarking Participants						
Ontario, Canada	○	●	4 or more	○	○	In the province of Ontario, all students may attend full-day kindergarten. Attendance is not compulsory in Ontario public schools until age 6.
Quebec, Canada	●	●	4 or more	○	○	n/a
Moscow City, Russian Fed.	●	●	4 or more	●	●	There are targeted ECED and PPE programs that prioritize development (e.g., physical development, aesthetic development, etc.) as well as correctional programs for children with disabilities.
Gauteng, South Africa	Same as South Africa					
Western Cape, South Africa	Same as South Africa					
Madrid, Spain	Same as Spain					
Abu Dhabi, UAE	Same as United Arab Emirates					
Dubai, UAE	Same as United Arab Emirates					

● Yes
○ No