

**West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2525 –  
*West Virginia’s Universal Access to a Quality Early Education System***

- West Virginia legislation passed in 2002 required the state to expand access to preschool education programs, in order to make prekindergarten available to all 4 year old children by 2012-13. In 2012-13 all 4 year old children, as well as 3 year old children with an IEP will have access to a quality Universal Pre-K program. **2012-13 enrollment** was **15,754** children.
- In order to support counties in the effort to maximize existing resources, 50% of the classrooms are to be collaborate with community partners. During **2012-13**, **74%** of the classrooms were in collaboration with community partners, including childcare centers and Head Start programs.
- Funding for Universal Pre-K is part of the State School Aid Funding Formula. As enrollment increases, funding to implement increases. FY2012 Total State Aid funding generated by Pre-k was over **85 million dollars** (*in addition to Federal Head Start and Childcare funding*).

**Intent of Policy 2525**

- Provide opportunities to parents for their children to receive Pre-K services in a setting that is most appropriate.
- Provide county partners with a framework in which to implement Pre-k services. It is not intended to provide a step-by-step instruction of implementation. Counties have flexibility of how they wish to see Pre-K services delivered in their community.
- Provide high-quality Pre-K services to four year old children so they may be ready to enter kindergarten.
- Programs are inclusive so that all children have access to high quality programs and are not segregated by income, ability, funding stream, care needs or other characteristics. “Care” and “education” are integrated into one consistent program that address individual strengths and needs.

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**NIEER – National Institute for Early Education Research**

**NIEER Quality Standards Checklist - WV Met 8 of 10 for 2011 Yearbook for 2013**

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?	
1 -Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive .....	Comprehensive	✓	✓
2 -Teacher degree .....	BA (pre-K only programs); AA (blended programs) <sup>2</sup>	BA	NO	✓
3 -Teacher specialized training .....	See footnotes <sup>3</sup> .....	Specializing in pre-K	✓	✓
4 -Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD .....	CDA or equivalent	NO	NO
5 -Teacher in-service .....	15 clock hours .....	At least 15 hours/year	✓	✓
6 -Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	✓	✓
3-year-olds .....	20			
4-year-olds .....	20			
7 -Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	✓	✓
3-year-olds .....	1:10			
4-year-olds .....	1:10			
8 -Screening/referral .....	Vision, hearing, health, and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	✓	✓
9 -Meals .....	Depend on length of program day <sup>5</sup>	At least 1/day	✓	✓
10 -Monitoring .....	Site visits& other monitoring .....	Site visits	✓	✓

2 If the classroom is in a community collaborative (supported by two or more funding sources and located in a public school or community-based setting), the teacher may be on permit, provided that the teacher has at least an Associate’s degree in an approved field and is working toward certification. Teachers may be on permit for up to 5 years.

3 Teachers in public school settings that are not collaborative must be certified in Birth-5, Early Childhood Education, Preschool Special Needs, or Elementary Education (with a Pre-K/K endorsement). Teachers in community collaborative settings must have a degree in Child Development/ Early Childhood or in Occupational Development with an emphasis in Child Development/Early Childhood.

4 Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, transition to kindergarten activities, and other locally determined services.

5 Meals must be offered if the program operates for more than 4 hours per day.

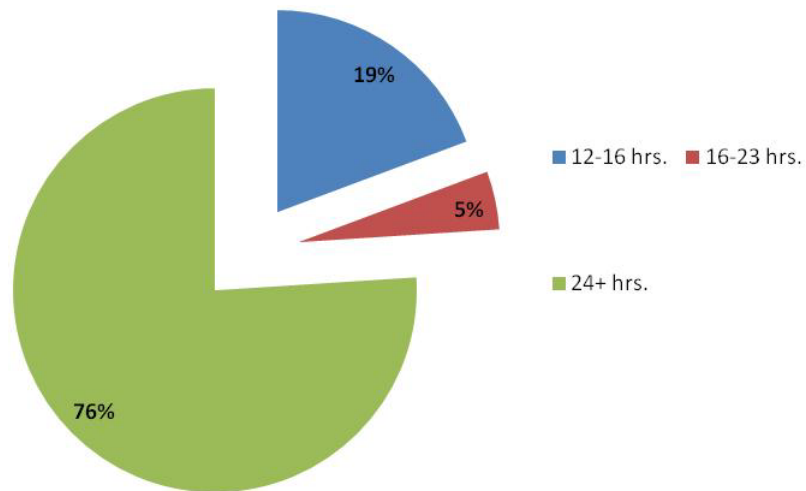
**NIEER – National Institute for Early Education Research  
The State of Preschool 2011 Yearbook**

WV Pre-K national ranking for access for 4 year-olds	5 <sup>th</sup>
WV Pre-K national ranking for access for 3 year-olds	7 <sup>th</sup>
WV Pre-K national ranking for state spending on Pre-K	8 <sup>th</sup>
WV Pre-K national ranking for overall spending on Pre-K	4 <sup>th</sup>

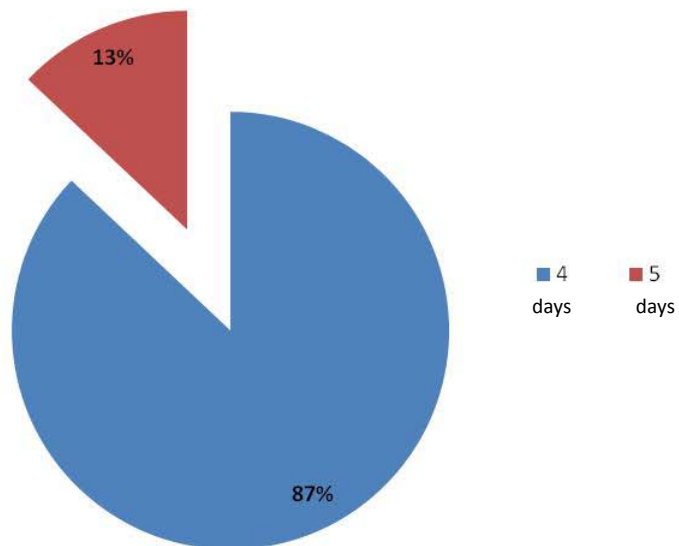
**2012-13 Overview of WV Pre-K Classrooms**

Pre-K classes identified in verified county data for 2012-13 <i>(AM / PM sessions defined as separate classes)</i>	<b>1071</b>
2012-13 Pre-K Enrollment	<b>15,754</b>
Increase in enrollment from 2011-12	<b>3.1%</b>
Increase in enrollment since 2007-08	<b>29%</b>

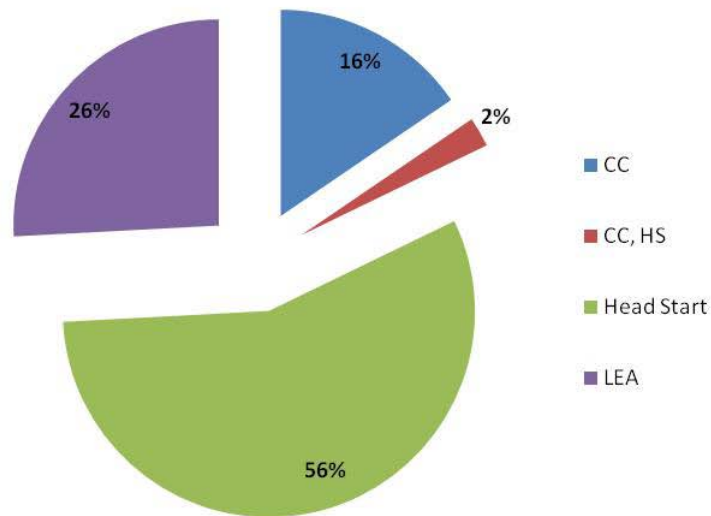
Hours of Instruction per Week  
2012-13



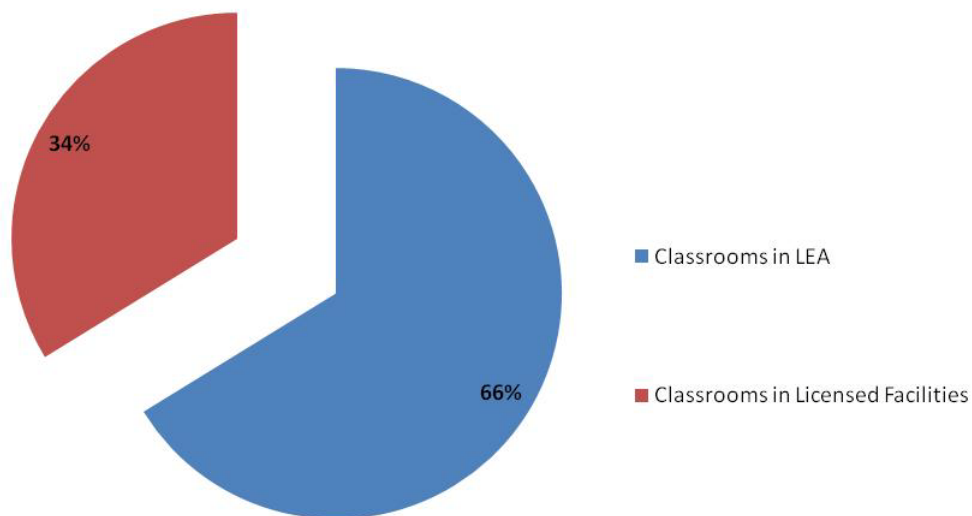
Days of Instruction per Week  
2012-13



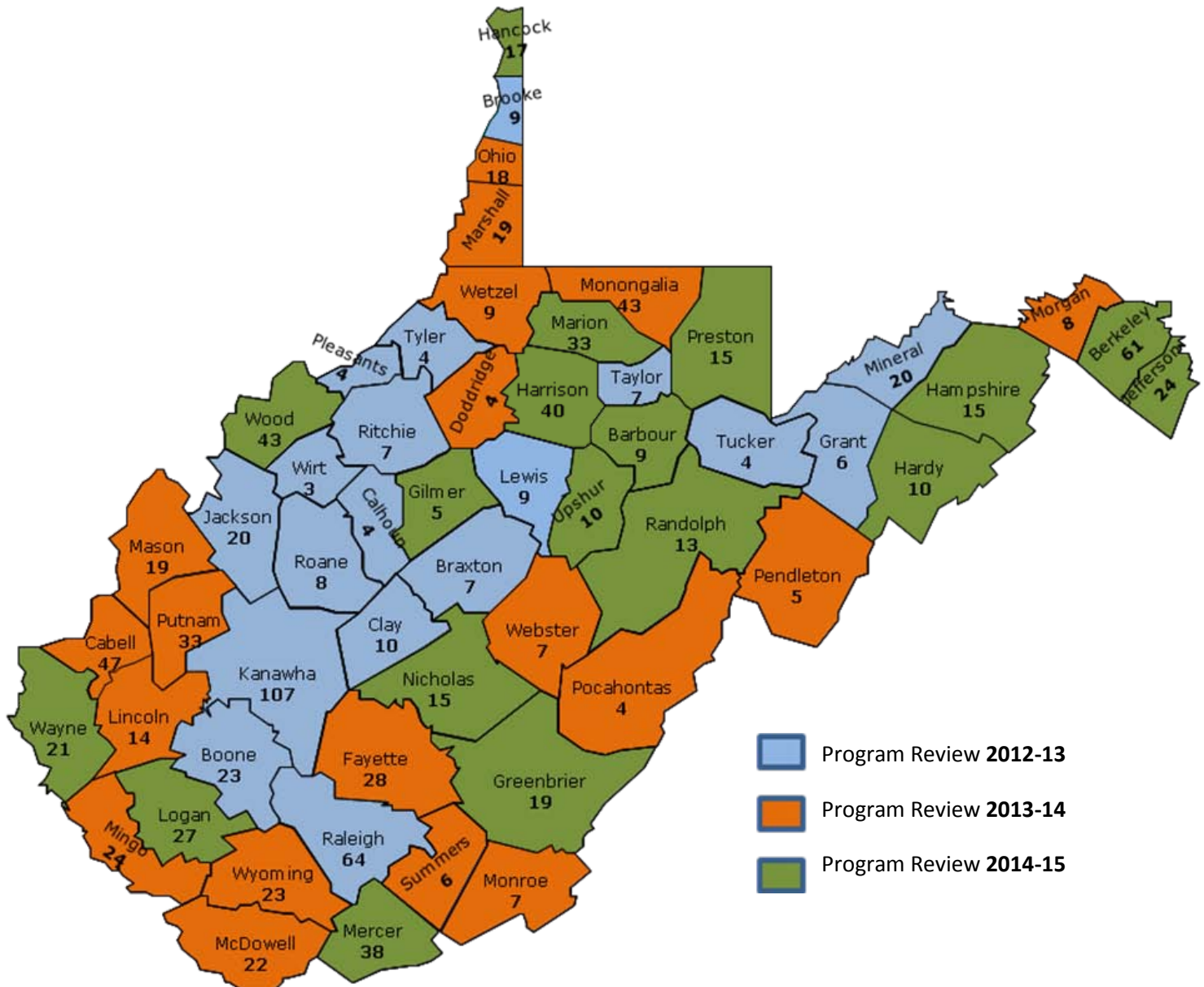
Collaboration Summary  
2012-13



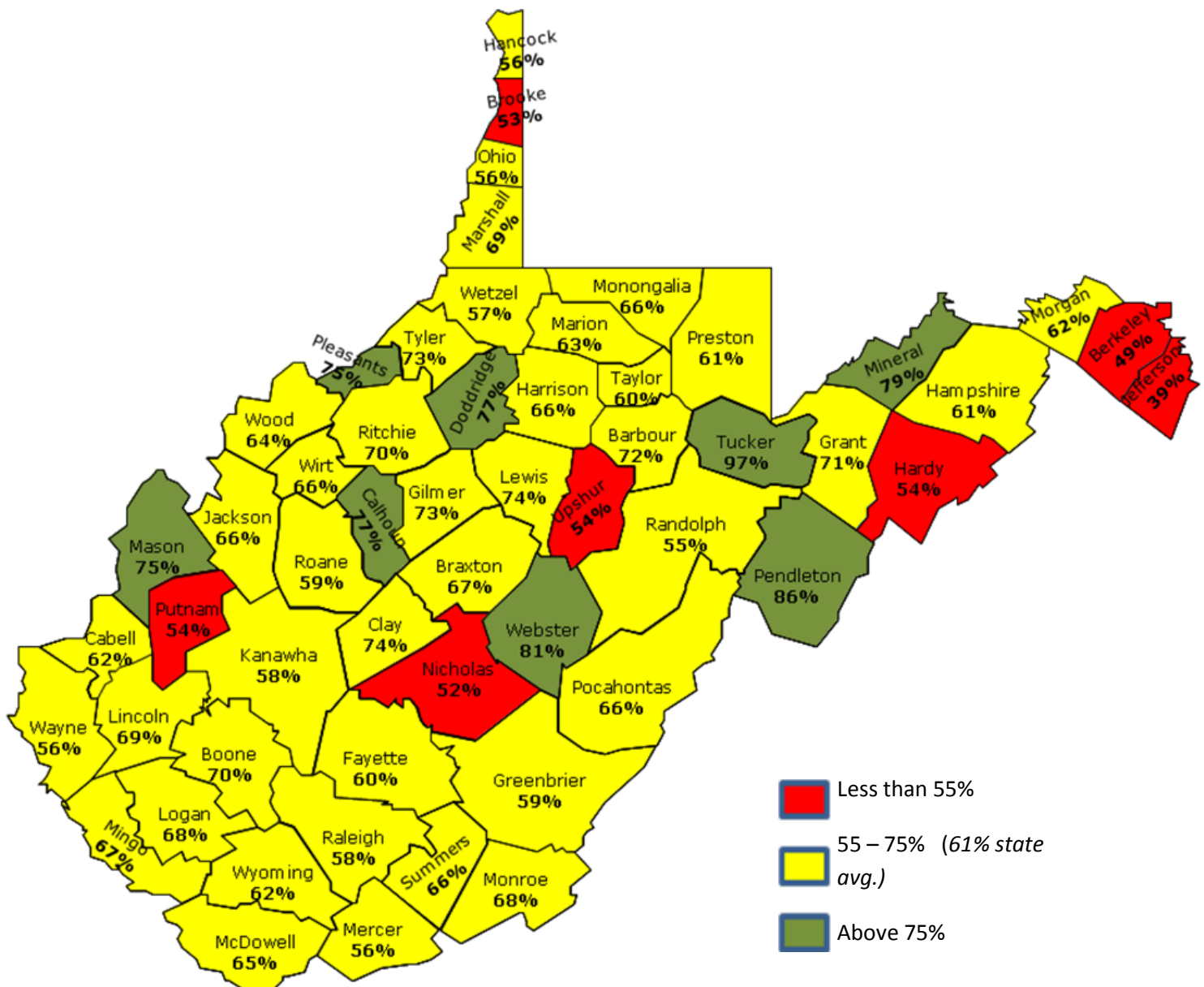
Collaboration per Location Summary 2012-13



**West Virginia Universal Pre-K  
Program Review Timeline  
2012-13 Classroom Count**



**West Virginia Universal Pre-K  
2011-12 4 Yr. Old Participation Rates\***



\* Participation rate is calculated as the difference between the current kindergarten enrollment and the 4 yr. old and over population enrolled in pre-k from the previous year.



Map of West Virginia showing the percentage of collaborative partners by county. The legend indicates three categories: Less than 50% (red), 50 - 74% (yellow), and 75 - 100% (green).

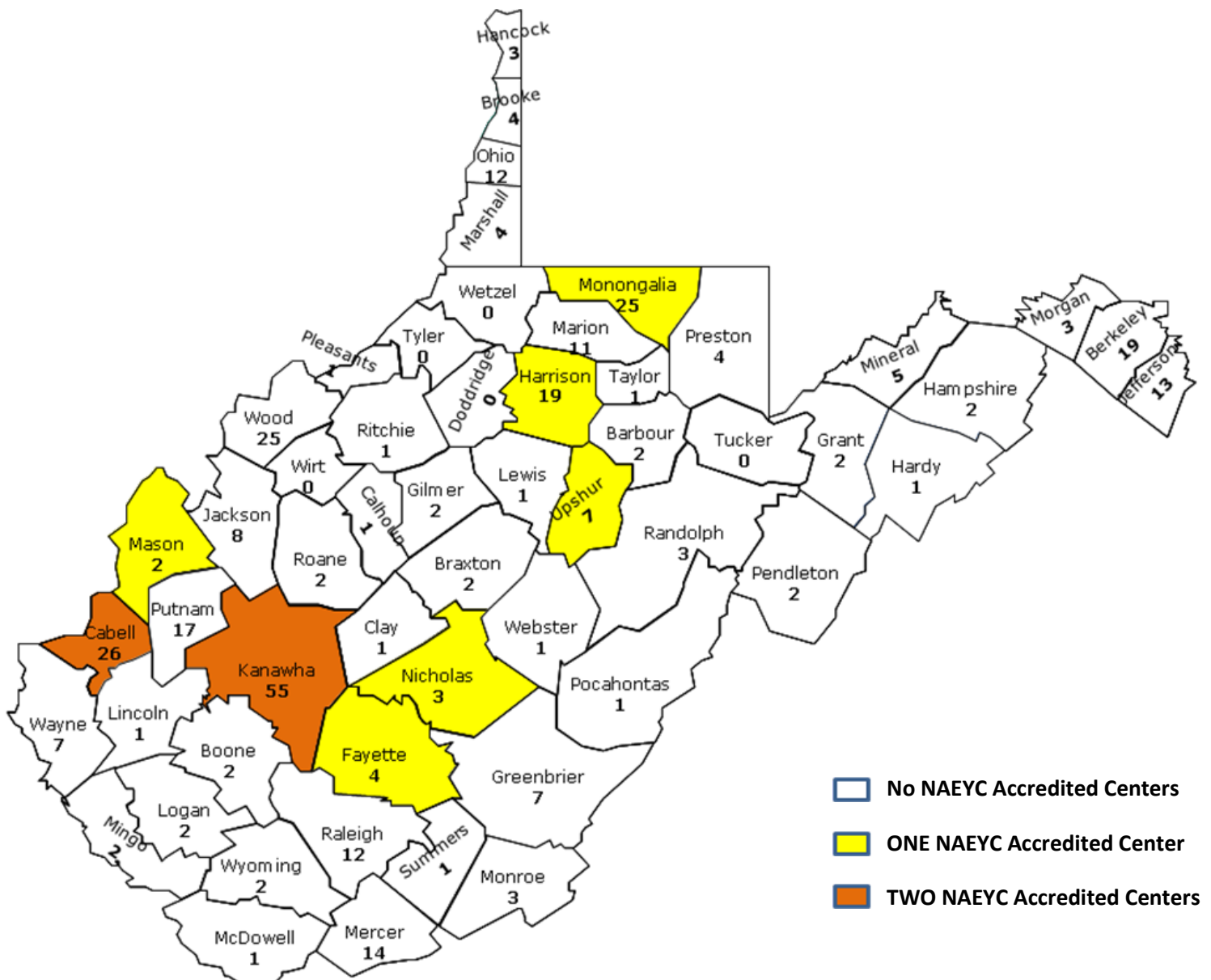
Counties and their percentages:

- Hancock: 47%
- Brooke: 56%
- Ohio: 61%
- Marshall: 53%
- Wetzel: 45%
- Marion: 67%
- Monongalia: 100%
- Tyler: 100%
- Pleasants: 100%
- Doddridge: 100%
- Harrison: 78%
- Taylor: 100%
- Preston: 93%
- Morgan: 75%
- Berkeley: 41%
- Jefferson: 50%
- Mineral: 85%
- Hampshire: 87%
- Tucker: 0%\*
- Grant: 67%
- Hardy: 60%
- Pendleton: 60%
- Randolph: 100%
- Upshur: 90%
- Barbour: 78%
- Lewis: 67%
- Gilmer: 60%
- Wirt: 67%
- Ritchie: 43%
- Wood: 51%
- Jackson: 100%
- Mason: 84%
- Cabell: 100%
- Putnam: 64%
- Roane: 100%
- Braxton: 100%
- Clay: 100%
- Webster: 86%
- Pocahontas: 75%
- Nicholas: 100%
- Fayette: 75%
- Greenbrier: 100%
- Monroe: 100%
- Summers: 100%
- Raleigh: 34%
- Mercer: 47%
- McDowell: 100%
- Wyoming: 65%
- Logan: 100%
- Mingo: 100%
- Wayne: 100%
- Lincoln: 100%
- Boone: 48%
- Kanawha: 92%

(\* no collaborative partner available)



West Virginia Licensed Child Care Centers  
2012 WVDHHR WV Child Care Centers



- No NAEYC Accredited Centers
- ONE NAEYC Accredited Center
- TWO NAEYC Accredited Centers

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County	2011-12 4 yr. old - PLUS Pre-K Enrollment <sup>1</sup>	2012-13 Kindergarten Enrollment <sup>2</sup>	*Participation Percentage <sup>3</sup>	2012-13 Pre-K Enrollment <sup>4</sup>	2012-13 Enrollment Excluded for State Aid (under 3 yrs)	2012-13 Approved Pre-K Classrooms	2012-13 Capacity reported on program data
Barbour	131	182	72%	142	20	9	180
Berkeley	716	1448	49%	872	10	61	991
Boone	255	362	70%	266	47	23	396
Braxton	117	174	67%	142	17	7	140
Brooke	132	251	53%	154	9	9	170
Cabell	681	1100	62%	758	2	47	892
Calhoun	68	88	77%	65	0	4	80
Clay	128	172	74%	135	18	10	185
Doddridge	57	74	77%	73	1	4	80
Fayette	316	525	60%	396	90	28	499
Gilmer	55	75	73%	60	0	5	97
Grant	89	126	71%	126	2	6	112
Greenbrier	246	416	59%	253	31	19	348
Hampshire	157	256	61%	176	23	15	218
Hancock	175	314	56%	250	23	17	280
Hardy	103	190	54%	149	0	10	200
Harrison	553	842	66%	688	39	40	773
Jackson	229	345	66%	309	3	20	353
Jefferson	284	728	39%	323	6	24	395
Kanawha	1251	2144	58%	1494	85	107	1752
Lewis	143	193	74%	165	1	9	176
Lincoln	225	326	69%	264	16	14	268
Logan	301	442	68%	376	65	27	518
Marion	385	612	63%	492	67	33	597
Marshall	232	336	69%	275	32	19	343
Mason	237	318	75%	296	8	19	372
McDowell	196	303	65%	216	96	22	384
Mercer	447	792	56%	564	70	38	714
Mineral	243	309	79%	295	31	20	363
Mingo	242	362	67%	259	105	24	446
Monongalia	568	865	66%	647	153	43	772
Monroe	99	145	68%	121	34	7	131
Morgan	98	159	62%	128	24	8	136
Nicholas	186	356	52%	235	23	15	269

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Ohio	239	424	56%	308	3	18	296
Pendleton	54	63	86%	67	4	5	80
Pleasants	76	102	75%	65	0	4	80
Pocahontas	53	80	66%	58	5	4	80
Preston	204	333	61%	269	11	15	294
Putnam	390	724	54%	415	42	33	514
Raleigh	611	1021	58%	769	4	64	1150
Randolph	205	374	55%	227	2	13	252
Ritchie	78	111	70%	98	0	7	128
Roane	116	196	59%	123	10	8	160
Summers	87	132	66%	117	23	6	120
Taylor	106	177	60%	130	14	7	140
Tucker	59	61	97%	62	0	4	80
Tyler	76	104	73%	76	1	4	80
Upshur	165	305	54%	180	0	10	188
Wayne	325	581	56%	405	28	21	415
Webster	95	118	81%	99	4	7	118
Wetzel	120	212	57%	149	5	9	165
Wirt	46	70	66%	57	0	3	55
Wood	600	944	64%	680	3	43	780
Wyoming	194	314	62%	314	12	23	429
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13,244</b>	<b>21,776</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>15,754</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>19,234</b>

<sup>1</sup> Ages by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> month Enrollment – Counted for State Aid Funding – 2013 Headcount

<sup>3</sup> Percent Participation is the difference between the kindergarten enrollment and the 4 yr. old and over population enrolled in pre-k from the previous year. This is used as a rough estimate for participation and needs.

## Defining “Universality” in WV Pre-K

During the inception of Universal Pre-K for West Virginia in 2002, 80% access for four year old children was the targeted or anticipated participation rate for the voluntary, universal access to public Pre-K. However, nationally, only a few states have developed a full-fledged universal pre-K system since West Virginia’s Pre-K launch, and the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) has provided annual updates on each state’s progress over the past ten years.

The State of Preschool 2011 State Preschool Yearbook by NIEER stated that the top three states for four year old access were Florida, Oklahoma, and Vermont. In 2010-11, each of these top three states averaged 72% for four year old access. In comparison, West Virginia was 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation at 58% for 2010-11. West Virginia must clearly define what Universal Pre-K truly means. Two key components in West Virginia’s system for universal pre-k are *access* and *collaboration*.

The first component, **access**, is based on a school district’s ability to meet the community’s needs. There cannot be a waiting list; all families who desire a space in the Universal Pre-K system must be accommodated. Much of this work involves community needs assessments, which requires districts to be able to identify trends in enrollment, parent choice in placement in private/secular sites not partnering, and trends of families who choose not to participate and keep their children home until kindergarten. This component is individual to each district. The preliminary data for each county reviewed for Universal Access prior to 2012-13 found that each district demonstrated this component but at various participation rates for four year olds. Some districts have begun surveying kindergarten registrants to gain a clearer picture of participation rates at private and faith based settings, as well as trends in the data for families who choose to keep their children home until kindergarten.

The second component, **collaboration**, is a required factor per WVBE Policy 2525, which indicates that a district is working to fully maximize its resources. Each school district must demonstrate that it has established collaborative partnerships, where feasible, with the goal being a minimum of 50% of the programs in collaboration with community partners. Many of the school districts have surpassed this requirement, as 74% of all the 2012-13 West Virginia Pre-K classrooms are collaborative.

For more information on West Virginia Universal Pre-K visit <http://wvde.state.wv.us/oel/> .

Policy Resources at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/>

- WVBE Policy 2525 West Virginia's Universal Access to Early Education System
- WVBE Policy 2520.15 - Early Learning Standards
- WVBE Policy 2520.14 - 21st Century Learning Skills and Technology Tools Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools

## WV Pre-k Funding

*From WEST VIRGINIA CODE §18-5-44. Early childhood education programs.*

(t)(1) Documentation indicating the extent to which county boards are maximizing resources by using the existing capacity of community-based programs, including, but not limited to, Head Start and child care; and

(t)(2) For those county boards that are including eligible children attending approved, contracted community-based programs in their net enrollment for the purposes of calculating state aid pursuant to article nine-a of this chapter, documentation that the county board is equitably distributing funding for all children regardless of setting.

## WV Pre-k Funding - County Collaborative Team Resources

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/oel/county-resources.php>

[WV Pre-K Partnerships: Collaborating with Community Programs](#)

[Budget Template](#)

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## Milestones

### 2002

West Virginia legislature passed W. Va. Code §18-5-44. This bill requires the West Virginia Board of Education, in collaboration with the Secretary of West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, to ensure that every four year old has access to a high quality Pre-k classroom by 2012-13.

### 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012

West Virginia Board of Education revisions to Policy 2525 to ensure continued revisions to strengthen the quality of WV Pre-k and the collaborative process.

### 2008

The WVDE changed the rules for WV Pre-k funding calculations to ensure children in various setting were funded equally and equitably, regardless of type of collaboration or setting.

### 2010

The WVBE revised the West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework (WVBE Policy 2520.15) to better meet alignment to the Common Core State Standards and Kindergarten CSO's, as well as to address school readiness and child assessment.

### WV Universal Pre-K Contacts

WVDE Office of Early Learning <a href="http://wvde.state.wv.us/oel/">http://wvde.state.wv.us/oel/</a> Janet Bock, Coordinator <a href="mailto:jbock@access.k12.wv.us">jbock@access.k12.wv.us</a> 304.558.9994	WVDE Office of Special Programs <a href="http://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/">http://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/</a> Ginger Huffman, Coordinator <a href="mailto:vhuffman@access.k12.wv.us">vhuffman@access.k12.wv.us</a> 304.558.2696
WVDHHR Division of Early Care and Education <a href="http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/ece/">http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/ece/</a> Melanie Clark, Program Manager <a href="mailto:Melanie.A.Clark@wv.gov">Melanie.A.Clark@wv.gov</a> 304.356.4600	WV Head Start State Collaboration Office <a href="http://www.wvheadstart.org/">http://www.wvheadstart.org/</a> Traci Dalton, Director <a href="mailto:Traci.L.Dalton@wv.gov">Traci.L.Dalton@wv.gov</a> 304.356.4604
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