

Assessing the Need for Preschool For All in Yolo County

Background

In recent years, universal preschool has gained increasing attention across California. Communities are recognizing the need to consider access to preschool services that have not traditionally been included in public school district offerings. Research shows that investing in high quality preschool provides significant benefits to children, families, and society¹. Further, as researchers at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth found, children from low- to moderate-income families who attend preschool demonstrate improved outcomes throughout childhood. These children are:



- Less likely to repeat a grade;
- Less likely to require special education services to succeed in school; and
- Less likely to be victims of child abuse and neglect.

Positive effects of attending preschool extend beyond school-age years. When these children become adults, they are:

- Less likely to commit a crime;
- More likely to graduate from high school and attend college; and
- More likely to be in good health.

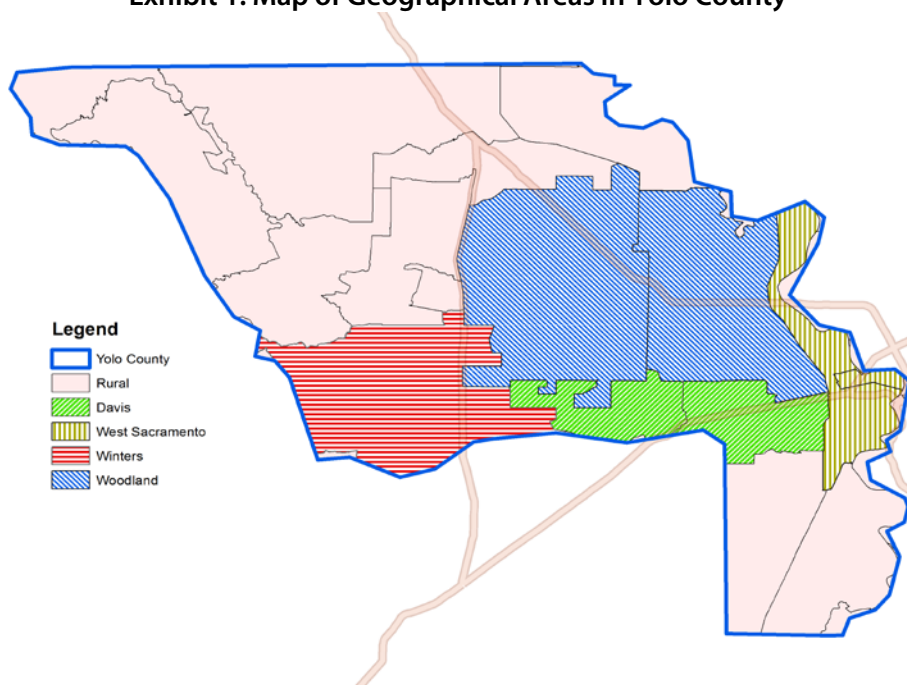
The 2013 Yolo County Child Care Needs Assessment identified substantial gaps in the availability of licensed preschools slots in communities across the county. As a result, the Yolo County Office of Education is interested in understanding if there is a need for a Preschool for All program and the extent to which costs could be funded by a sales tax increase that would generate \$4-8 million annually (depending on the amount of increase). This data summary is a preliminary step in exploring the need to address school readiness among young children in Yolo County. It aims to answer questions about the need for Preschool For All in Yolo County.²

¹ Lynch, R. and Vaghul, K. The Benefits and Costs of Investing in Early Childhood Education: The fiscal, economic, and societal gains of a universal prekindergarten program in the United States, 2016-2050. December 2015.

² Appendix A includes information about the *cost* of high quality child care.

This data summary includes data collected from local and state secondary sources including California Department of Finance, U.S. Census American Community Survey, California Department of Education, California Department of Social Services, City of Davis Child Care Services Resource & Referral Program, and National Survey of American Families. Much of the data is presented by geographical area, comparing findings from Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, Woodland, and Rural Yolo³. A map of these areas is shown in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1. Map of Geographical Areas in Yolo County



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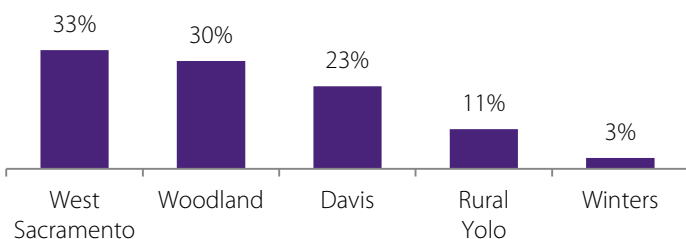
³ Rural Yolo covers several census-designated places (including unincorporated towns) within the boundaries of Yolo County. Data for Rural Yolo were calculated by subtracting Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland totals from Yolo County totals.

Child Characteristics

Key takeaways

- Cities with the most preschool-age children are West Sacramento and Woodland.
- Nearly half of children ages 0-5 in Yolo County are Latino.
- Approximately 20 percent of children ages 0-5 in Yolo County are living below the federal poverty level (FPL) and another 23 percent are living in 100-200 percent of the FPL.
- Nearly 40 percent of Yolo County kindergarteners are English Learners.

Exhibit 2. Preschool-Age Children Living in Yolo County, by City, 2015⁴
n=9,568



Definition of Preschool-Age Children

To align with the California Department of Social Services' Community Care Licensing Division, "preschool-age children" is defined as children ages 2-5.

Source: California Department of Finance Projections

- In 2015, there were 9,568 preschool-age children (children ages 2-5) in Yolo County. The greatest percentage (33 percent, n=3,157) live in West Sacramento, followed by Woodland (30 percent, n=2,870), Davis (23 percent, n=2,201), Rural Yolo (11 percent, n=1,052), and Winters (three percent, n=287).

⁴ Calculated by multiplying the total number of children ages 2-5 in Yolo County (n=9,568) by the percentage of Yolo County children living in each city: West Sacramento, 33 percent; Woodland, 30 percent; Davis, 23 percent; Rural Yolo, 11 percent; and Winters, three percent (U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate, 2010-2014).

Exhibit 3. Estimated Number of Preschool-Age Children, by City and Age, 2015*⁵

	Age 2	Age 3	Ages 4	Age 5
Davis	562	539	552	548
West Sacramento	806	774	792	786
Winters	73	70	72	71
Woodland	733	704	720	715
Rural Yolo	269	258	264	262
Yolo County	2,442	2,345	2,399	2,382

* Numbers in each column may not sum to the Yolo County total due to rounding.

- Across Yolo County, there are similar numbers of children in each age group (ages 2, 3, 4, and 5).

Exhibit 4. Race/Ethnicity of Children Ages 0-5⁶, by City, 2010

	Davis (n=2,829)	West Sacramento (n=3,846)	Winters (n=509)	Woodland (n=3,896)	Rural Yolo (n=1,373)	Yolo County (n=12,453)
Latino	22%	41%	66%	66%	44%	46%
White	52%	39%	34%	28%	30%	37%
Asian/Pacific Islander	13%	9%	--	4%	10%	8%
Multiracial	12%	7%	--	2%	8%	7%
Black/African American	2%	3%	0%	0%	4%	2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	1%

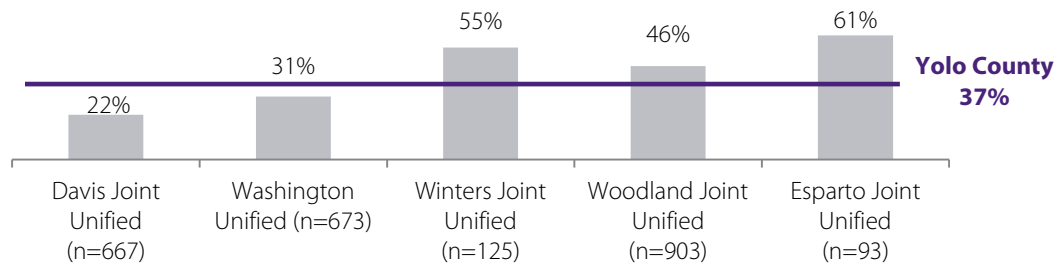
Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimate, 2010

- The majority of children ages 0-5 in Yolo County are Latino (46 percent), followed by White (37 percent), Asian/Pacific Islander (8 percent), multiracial (7 percent), Black/African American (2 percent), and American Indian/Alaska Native (1 percent). Two-thirds of children ages 0-5 (66 percent) in Winters and Woodland are Latino.

⁵ Calculated by multiplying the number of children, by age, in Yolo County (California Department of Finance Projections) by the percentage of Yolo County children living in each city: West Sacramento, 33 percent; Woodland, 30 percent; Davis, 23 percent; Rural Yolo, 11 percent; and Winters, three percent (U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate, 2010-2014).

⁶ Data is not available for preschool-age children (children ages 2-5); therefore, data for children ages 0-5 is shown.

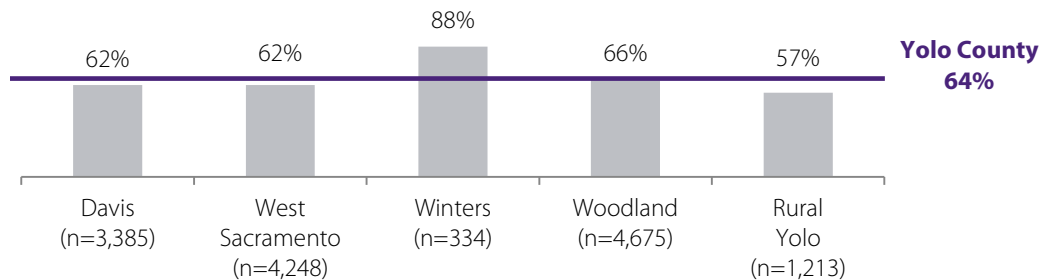
**Exhibit 5. Percent of Kindergarten Students who are English Learners⁷,
by School District⁸, 2014/15**



Source: California Department of Education

- Overall, 37 percent of Yolo County kindergarteners are English Language Learners. In Esparto Joint Unified and Winters Joint Unified, more than half of kindergarteners are English Language Learners (61 percent and 55 percent, respectively).

**Exhibit 6. Children Ages 0-5⁹ in Families with All Parents¹⁰ in the Labor Force,
by City, 2014**



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate, 2010-2014

- The number of parents in the labor force is one of the components in understanding the demand for child care. In Yolo County, 64 percent of children ages 0-5 have all parents in the labor force. The cities in Yolo County with the highest *number* of children whose parents work is Woodland (n=4,675) and West Sacramento (n=4,248)

⁷ English learner students are those students for whom there is a report of a primary language other than English on the state-approved Home Language Survey and who, on the basis of the state approved oral language assessment procedures (grades K-12) and literacy (grades 3-12), have been determined to lack the clearly defined English language skills of listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing necessary to succeed in the school's regular instructional programs.

⁸ Davis Joint Unified is in the city of Davis, Washington Unified is in the city of West Sacramento, Winters Joint Unified is in the city of Winters, Woodland Joint Unified is in the city of Woodland, and Esparto Joint Unified is in the census-designated place of Esparto (Rural Yolo).

⁹ Data is not available for preschool-age children (children ages 2-5); therefore, data for children ages 0-5 is shown.

¹⁰ Data represent mothers in single mother families, fathers in single father families, and both parents in married couple families.

Exhibit 7. Poverty Level of Children Ages 0-5¹¹, by City, 2014^{12,13}

	Living below 100% of the FPL	Living in 100-200% of the FPL
Davis	6%	16%
West Sacramento	26%	21%
Winters	0%	19%
Woodland	21%	27%
Rural Yolo	22%	38%
Yolo County	19%	23%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate, 2010-2014

- Families are eligible for Head Start if their income is below 100 percent of the FPL. Approximately one in five children ages 0-5 (19 percent) in Yolo County are living **below 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL)**¹⁴. However, some communities are disproportionately burdened. West Sacramento has the greatest percentage of young children living below 100 percent of the FPL (26 percent), followed by Rural Yolo (22 percent) and Woodland (21 percent).
- While considered low-income, families living in 100-200 percent of the FPL have household incomes that make them ineligible for Head Start. Nearly one quarter (23 percent) of children ages 0-5 in Yolo County are living in **100-200 percent of the FPL**. Rural Yolo has the greatest percentage of children living in 100-200 percent of the FPL (38 percent), followed by Woodland (27 percent), and West Sacramento (21 percent).

¹¹ Data is not available for preschool-age children (children ages 2-5); therefore, data for children ages 0-5 is shown.

¹² Children living below 100 percent of the FPL: Davis, n=3,540; West Sacramento, n=4,463; Winters, n=334; Woodland, n=4,816; and Rural Yolo, n=1,355.

¹³ Children living in 100-200 percent of the FPL: Davis, n=3,385; West Sacramento, n=4,400; Winters, n=334; Woodland, n=4,807; and Rural Yolo, n=1,253.

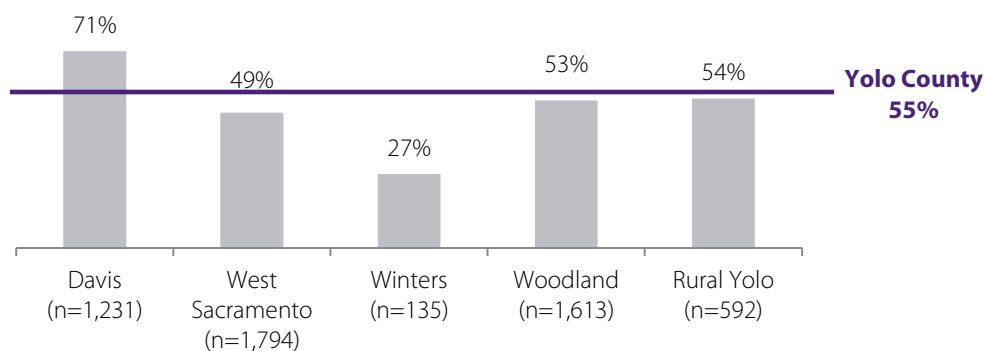
¹⁴ Defined as \$24,250 for a family of four in 2015.

Preschool Attendance, Facilities, and Capacity

Key takeaways

- Slightly more than half of children ages 3-4 in Yolo County attend preschool.
- In Yolo County, family child care is more affordable than center based care: the annual cost of tuition for one preschooler in a child care center is \$9,840 on average. The annual cost of tuition for one preschooler in a family child care home is \$7,879 on average.
- The City of Davis has the greatest number of licensed preschool center slots and West Sacramento has the greatest number of licensed family child care home slots.
- While licensed preschool slots in Davis and Winters are able to accommodate the vast majority of preschool-age children, percentage of children in Woodland, West Sacramento, and Rural Yolo for whom there is an available preschool slot is lower.

Exhibit 8. Children Ages 3-4¹⁵ Who Attend Preschool, by City, 2014



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate, 2010-2014

- Preschool attendance may be due to a number of factors including accessibility (number of available, nearby preschool facilities/slots), cost, and/or personal choice (e.g., parents choosing not to send their child to preschool). Overall, slightly more than half of children (55 percent) attend preschool in Yolo County. Davis has the greatest percentage of children attending preschool (71 percent), compared to 54 percent in Rural Yolo, 53 percent in Woodland, and 49 percent in West Sacramento. Only one in four children attend preschool in Winters (27 percent).

¹⁵ Data is not available for preschool-age children (children ages 2-5); therefore, data for children ages 3-4 is shown.

Types of Licensed Child Care

Under the California Department of Social Services, the Child Care Licensing Program licenses and monitors Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes.

- **Licensed Preschool Centers** are facilities that provide child care to children ages 2-5 in a group setting, often located in commercial buildings. Centers are licensed to provide child care and can be operated on a for-profit (corporate or proprietary) or non-profit basis. According to the Child Care Regional Market Rate Survey, the average annual cost of tuition for one preschooler in a licensed child care center in Yolo County is \$9,840.
- **Licensed Family Child Care Homes** are facilities that provide child care in the home of a licensed child care provider. Family child care homes can provide care for infants, preschool, and school-age children. Large family child care homes can care for up to 14 children with the help of an assistant, and small family child care homes can care for up to eight children. The average annual cost of tuition for one preschooler in a licensed child care home in Yolo County is \$7,879.

Exhibit 9. Number of Licensed Preschool Centers and Family Child Care Homes^{16,17}, by City

	Preschool Centers ¹⁸	Family Child Care Homes ^{19,20}	Total Facilities
Davis	31	53	84
West Sacramento	11	110	121
Winters	5	9	14
Woodland	21	80	101
Rural Yolo	5	5	10
Yolo County	73	257	330

Sources: California Department of Social Services and
City of Davis Child Care Services Resource & Referral Program

- There are 73 licensed preschool centers and 257 licensed family child care homes in Yolo County. However, the availability varies by city. The city of Davis has the greatest number of licensed preschool centers, and West Sacramento has the greatest number of licensed family child care homes.

¹⁶ Represents the number of licensed preschool centers that serve children ages 2-5 and the number of licensed large and small family child care homes that serve children 0-12.

¹⁷ Estimates are based on the number of licensed facilities and do not include license-exempt programs.

¹⁸ Data was collected in February 2016.

¹⁹ Data was collected in May 2013.

²⁰ For licensed family child care homes, information is not available on whether the slots are for infants, preschool, or school-age children.

Exhibit 10. Number of Licensed Preschool Center Slots and Family Child Care Slots²¹, by City

	Preschool Center Slots²²	Family Child Care Home Slots for Preschool-Age Children²³	Total Slots
Davis	1,535	208	1,743
West Sacramento	542	470	1,012
Winters	174	40	214
Woodland	1,024	317	1,341
Rural Yolo	207	25	232
Yolo County	3,482	1,060	4,542

*Source: California Department of Social Services and
City of Davis Child Care Services Resource & Referral Program*

- There are 3,482 licensed preschool center slots and an estimated 1,060 family child care home slots for children ages 2-5 in Yolo County. The greatest number of slots are in Davis (1,743), followed by Woodland (1,341), and West Sacramento (1,012).
- Based on estimates from the Yolo County Child Care Needs Assessment, preschool center slots include an estimated 344 slots for Head Start eligible families.

²¹ The number of preschool slots is calculated by using a facility's maximum capacity, which may be different from the actual number of children served.

²² Data was collected in February 2016.

²³ Calculated by multiplying the number of family child care home slots (collected in May 2013) by 39 percent, as findings show that 39 percent of children in family child care homes are ages 2-5 (National Survey of America's Families (NSAF), 2002, Focal Child Data).

Exhibit 11. Alignment of Available Preschool Slots and Preschool-Age Children²⁴

	Estimated Licensed Preschool Slots*	Estimated Number of Preschool-Age Children²⁵	Estimated Percent of Preschool-Age Children For Whom a Slot is Available
Davis	1,743	1,927	90%
West Sacramento	1,012	2,764	37%
Winters	214	251	85%
Woodland	1,341	2,513	53%
Rural Yolo	232	921	25%
Yolo County	4,542	8,377	54%

- While the vast majority of preschool-age children have a licensed preschool slot available to them in Davis and Winters (90 percent and 85 percent, respectively), there is a greater shortage of available preschool slots in Woodland, West Sacramento, and Rural Yolo (53 percent, 37 percent, and 25 percent of preschool-age children have a slot available to them, respectively).

²⁴ Includes licensed preschool center slots and licensed family child care home slots. The number of licensed family child care home slots was calculated by multiplying the number of family child care home slots (collected in May 2013) by 39 percent. Data show that an estimated 39 percent of children in family child care homes are ages 2-5 (National Survey of America's Families (NSAF), 2002, Focal Child Data).

²⁵ Refers to the number children ages 2-4 and half of the number of five year olds in Yolo County. It is estimated that half of all five year olds are preschool-age, and the remaining half are in kindergarten.

Appendix

Estimated costs of providing high quality preschool education—including facilities, administration, and support services—vary. Using cost estimates from the Universal Preschool for West Sacramento (UP4WS) program²⁶ (\$11,000/child in a child care center and \$9,400/child in a family child care home), the estimated cost of providing free, full day, high quality preschool to all 3 year olds in Yolo County is just under \$25 million dollars, just under \$6 million for all 3 year olds living in 100-200 percent of the FPL, and approximately \$5 million for all 3 year olds living below 100 percent of the FPL. Estimated costs of providing free, full day, high quality preschool to all 4 year olds in Yolo County are similar.

**Exhibit 12. Cost Estimates of Providing Full Day, Full Year
High Quality Preschool Slots in Yolo County***

	All Children	Children Living in 100- 200% of the FPL	Children Living Below 100% of the FPL
2 year olds	\$26,002,416	\$5,984,176	\$4,940,672
3 year olds	\$24,969,560	\$5,739,272	\$4,749,008
4 year olds	\$25,544,552	\$5,877,696	\$4,855,488
5 year olds ²⁷	\$12,681,768	\$2,917,552	\$2,406,448

** Calculated by multiplying the estimated number of children in center-based care and family child care homes (78 percent and 22 percent of children in care, respectively) by the estimated cost per child in a center-based care and a family child care home (\$11,000 and \$9,400²⁸, respectively).*

²⁶ UP4WS oversees two high quality child care and preschool programs in West Sacramento - Discovery Preschool and the Learning Ladder Preschool and Child Care Center. In addition, UP4WS has partnered with a number of family child care providers and child care centers to enhance program quality. Evaluation findings show that children who attend UP4WS are more ready for school compared to a similar group of children who attended a preschool other than UP4WS.

²⁷ Refers to the number five year olds who are preschool-age (50 percent of all five year olds in Yolo County). It is estimated that half of all five year olds are preschool-age, and the remaining half are in kindergarten.

²⁸ The cost of a full day, full year quality preschool slot in a family child care home (\$9,400) was calculated by taking the average cost of a child in a family child care home (\$7,879, as listed in the 2015 Child Care Portfolio – Yolo County) and adding approximately \$1,500 for quality care enhancements.