



CEELO Cost of Preschool Quality (CPQ) Tool

Rationale. State early education administrators and policy makers need comprehensive and valid information on the costs of implementing a high quality preschool program to help them figure out funding allocations for preschool programs, determine the cost to schools/program administrators of implementing or expanding access to high quality preschools, understanding the trade-offs of various decisions on quality and to ensure funding stability and sustainability to serve all 3 and 4 year old children in high quality preschool programs.

What the Model Does. CEELO has developed an excel based model that can be used at the state or district level to estimate the cost of expanding high quality preschool for 3 and 4 year olds. The model includes settings for “best practice” based on the 10 NIEER quality benchmarks and federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) requirements, but also allow for changes on these setting so that States can understand implications for cost of various alternate modes of delivery. The model has the functionality to alter inputs based on specific state/local data on:

- Who is served (requires demographics on income, language, at least)
- Ingredients of the program (length of day, days per year, class size, number of coaches per 100 classrooms, sq. ft. per child, etc.), and
- Input prices (primarily teacher salary).

The model also:

- Link to data on prices (primarily staff compensation) from the ACS and School Staffing data.
- Allow for varying the mix of providers among public school, private providers, and Head Starts.
- Allow creating and comparing various scenarios, or urban versus rural, or other such types of breakdowns.

How the Model Can Be Used. The model could be used by states with some assistance from CEELO to do the following:

- Estimate to what degree an existing program could be expanded within its current standards.
- Estimate the additional funding that would be required to raise standards in an existing program so that these more closely align with the best practice quality standards.
- Estimate the number of children that could be served in a particular mix of providers, for specific amounts of funding
- Assess the costs of various state specific policy proposals.
- In the context of current federal grants (RTT and PDG) could provide information on what will be needed from other sources to sustain funding after federal grant funds end.

Citation. Rickus, G., Barnett, W.S. & Nores, M. (2016). Cost of Preschool Quality (CPQ). New Brunswick, NJ: Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes.

The CPQ is free to users. An information form and a license can be accessed [here](#).