

Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System

Update/Recommendation to the Research & Data Committee
from the Preschool Development Grant Project

Unduplicated Counts

March 20, 2019

Background

In 2015 Minnesota applied for, and successfully received a four-year Statewide Longitudinal Data System – Institute of Education Sciences grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant funds seven projects intended to enhance data use and the use of integrated early childhood data systems such as Minnesota’s Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System.

One of the funded projects through IES is integrating data in the American Community Survey into the ECLDS at the national, state and county level. In June 2019, all county data will be publicly available. The ECLDS also has unduplicated counts available in the Kindergarten Summary for contributing programs.

In 2018, Minnesota received the Preschool Development Grant to conduct a statewide needs assessment at the systems level. Bonus points were available for states identifying the unduplicated number of children in programs as well as on waiting lists.

From the Preschool Development Grant narrative:

During the grant period, Minnesota will seek to better understand the unduplicated number of children awaiting early learning services by using population counts such as the American Community Survey (ACS) early childhood exports created through MDE’s FY15 Institute of Education Sciences (IES) grant. These exports focus on a number of risk factors by age group including an unduplicated count of children and related risk factors based either on income and/or adult factors. The ACS information will be available at the national, state, and county level by October 2019, during the PDG B-5 grant period. We will compare these counts at the state and local levels for Minnesota and look at the unduplicated number of children served through the ECLDS at the county level in targeted programs noting relevant caveats, including margins of error, to identify the estimate of waiting children.

Request for Spreadsheet Development

- 1) Representatives as identified by Education, Health, and Human Services, Head Start agencies, Ramsey County Home Visiting, Office of Higher Education, and MN.IT will form an analytics group to develop a proposal for consideration.
- 2) The group will meet 3-4 times for several hours each time. Outside of those meetings, the representatives will seek comments from others in their area.
- 3) Once the spreadsheet is populated, it will be circulated for comment during 2019 to determine any edits and whether full analytics are needed for sustainable needs assessments at the state and local level.