THE CITY OF NEW YORK
INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 28, 2024

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A Snapshot of Pre-K and 3-K Students in NYC

March 28, 2024, – Today, the New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) will be publishing a snapshot of New York City's pre-K and 3-K programs during the 2022-2023 school year. Utilizing data from the Department of Education, IBO examined the demographics of those who attended pre-K and 3-K programs. IBO also analyzed the rate at which students who attended 3-K in the 2021-2022 school year returned for pre-K the following year, and what type of program students attended (DOE, CBO, or Charter).

Throughout the fiscal year 2025 budget cycle, access to childcare and the impact it has on families has continued to be an important discussion between the Mayor and City Council. This report aims to provide policymakers, advocates, and families with demographic and programmatic information as these policy discussions evolve.

To read the full report, click here.

The report's findings include:

- In the 2022-2023 school year, there were 39,820 3-K students enrolled out of 53,000 budgeted seats and 59,260 pre-K students enrolled out of 75,000 budgeted seats.

- In the 2021-2022 school year, across pre-K and 3-K, larger shares of students lived in neighborhoods at either end of the income distribution compared with students citywide.

- In the 2022-2023 school year, 3-K students enrolled at higher rates in community-based organizations (CBOs). This trend reflects the City's reliance on CBOs to provide 3-K seats during the program's initial expansion, as reported in a previous IBO publication.

- CBOs enrolled smaller shares of Hispanic students and larger shares of white students in pre-K and 3-K compared with DOE programs in the 2022-2023 school year.

- 82% of 3-K students in 2021-2022 returned for pre-K in 2022-2023, most of whom returned to the same type of program.

New York City Independent Budget Office
IBO's mission is to enhance understanding of New York City's budget, public policy, and economy through independent analysis.