

## Mission

The mission of the Office of Early Childhood Education (OECE) of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is to ensure all children ages birth through age eight have equal access to comprehensive, high quality Program options and support on a developmental continuum.

## Early Childhood Programs

Chicago Public Schools is committed to preparing children for the future: for work, higher education, and family and civic responsibilities. The Office of Early Childhood Education understands that the process begins very early in life.

OECE supports a variety of high quality education based programs throughout Chicago.

All early childhood programs strive for positive relationships with children and families. Public awareness of the importance of early childhood education and early learning are important to high quality early childhood programs.



### Program Directors

Karen Carradine  
Bonnie K. Roelle  
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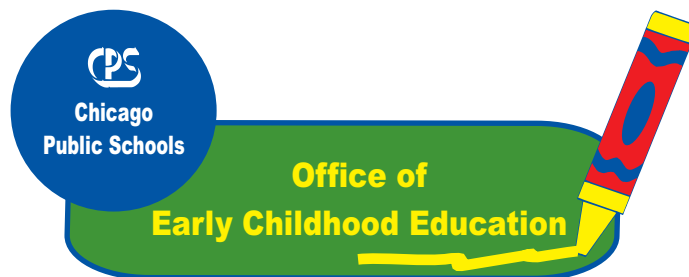
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### Web Site:

[www.ecechicago.org](http://www.ecechicago.org)

### OECE School Locator:

<http://schoollocator.cps.k12.il.us/ECE/>



Barbara T. Bowman, Chief Early Childhood Education Officer  
Paula A. Cottone, Deputy Chief Early Childhood Education Officer

## High Quality Programs and Initiatives

### Preschool for All (PFA) Program

Preschool for All is an expansion of the State Prekindergarten (SPK) program that makes Illinois the first state in the nation to offer a high quality, voluntary, 2½-hour preschool program to all three- and four-year-old children. The goal of Preschool for All is to ensure that all children are well prepared to succeed in school and in life.

### Head Start (HS) Program

The Head Start program provides services to preschool children, ages three to five, and their families who have incomes at or below the federal poverty level. The services for children focus on education, socio-emotional development, physical and mental health, and nutrition.

### Tuition Based Preschool (TBP) Program

The Tuition Based Preschool program is an affordable school based education and child care program for preschool children, ages three or four, who do not qualify for grant funded programs. All participating children are required to pay tuition.

### Child-Parent Center (CPC) Program

The Child-Parent Center program provides services to preschool children and their parents who live in targeted low income areas.

### Community Partnership Program

The Community Partnership program serves families and children, birth to eight years old who, because of home or community environment, may need preparation for kindergarten or prevention services.

### Kindergarten Program

Kindergarten is aligned with the local elementary school. Three program models are provided: the half-day model which includes 2½ hours of instruction, the 4-hour model which provides 4 hours of instruction, and the full-day model that includes at least 5½ hours of classroom instruction. Children must be five years old on or before September 1st of the current school year (no exceptions).

### Virtual Pre-K! and Virtual K!

Virtual Pre-K! and Virtual K!, available in English and Spanish, are teacher-created resources for parents and teachers that connect the classroom, home and community through the use of the Internet, video and CD-ROM technology. Virtual Pre-K! and Virtual K! each offer 20 creative lessons aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Standards and include hands-on activities that parents and children can try at home.

Web Sites: [www.virtualpre-k.org](http://www.virtualpre-k.org)  
[www.virtualk.org](http://www.virtualk.org)