“Universal Pre-K is not only the smart thing to do, it’s the right thing to do. Raising lifetime wages (and thereby tax revenues) and reducing the likelihood that children will drop out of school, get involved in crime and become a burden on the justice system more than make up for the costs of early education.”
— John E. Pepper, Jr, former Chairman and CEO, Proctor and Gamble, and chairman of the Walt Disney Company, and James Zimmerman, former chairman and chief executive of Macy’s

CityHealth helps cities thrive through policies that improve people’s day-to-day quality of life, well-being and health.

CityHealth, an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, works to advance a package of evidence-based policy solutions that will help millions of people live longer, better lives in vibrant, prosperous communities.

Our ratings are the culmination of a two-year assessment of how the nation’s 40 largest cities fare in nine policies based in research, backed by qualified experts and shown to have bipartisan support. With these policies in place, cities will attract families who want the best for themselves and their children, young people looking for interesting places to work and businesses that need high-quality talent. The bottom line: Policies like high-quality, universal Pre-K will improve lives and help cities thrive.

**FOCUS ON POLICY: HIGH QUALITY, UNIVERSAL PRE-K**

Universal Pre-Kindergarten provides early educational experiences to all children within a jurisdiction regardless of their families’ ability to pay. CityHealth’s assessment of Pre-K quality is based on the National Institute of Early Education Research’s (NIEER) 10 research-based quality standards benchmarks, along with an assessment of the level of enrollment in the city’s largest Pre-K program. These quality standards include components like student-teacher ratios, class size limits, and a continuous improvement system that ensures strong teaching practices. In addition to these criteria, Pre-K programs must also be adequately funded and supported by educational leadership. These are just some of the benefits of a quality Pre-K policy:

- **Improves school readiness and academic achievement.** Children who participate in high-quality Pre-K programs enter school better prepared and are less likely to repeat a grade or be referred to special education.
- **Leads to better societal outcomes.** Long-term effects of high-quality, universal Pre-K include increased high-school graduation rates, increased years of education completed, higher earnings, and reductions in crime and teen pregnancy.
- **Provides health benefits.** Preschool participants are more likely to go to a doctor, receive appropriate immunizations and screenings, and get dental care. In the long-term, the cognitive and social emotional gains children get from quality Pre-K are associated with improved health in adulthood.
- **Provides a significant financial return.** High quality Pre-K programs are a wise financial investment. Nobel Prize winning economist James Heckman estimates a $7-$10 return on investment for every dollar spent on Pre-K.
MEDALS BY CITY

Albuquerque
Atlanta
Austin
Baltimore
Boston
Charlotte
Chicago
Columbus
Dallas
Denver
Detroit
El Paso
Fort Worth
Fresno
Houston
Indianapolis
Jacksonville
Kansas City
Las Vegas
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Louisville
Memphis
Mesa
Milwaukee
Nashville
New York
Oklahoma City
Philadelphia
Phoenix
Portland
Sacramento
San Antonio
San Diego
San Francisco
San Jose
Seattle
Tucson
Virginia Beach
Washington, D.C.

HOW CITIES STACK UP

The state of high quality Pre-K in big US cities

Thirty-three out of 40 cities received a medal for high quality Pre-K, including five gold, eight silver, and 20 bronze.

The Gold Standard for High-Quality, Universal Pre-K

CityHealth’s 40-city assessment combined innovative legal analysis with the input of national experts to determine the “gold standard” for each policy. We identified which elements are necessary for the best quality policy (gold), a good quality policy (silver), and a passable quality policy (bronze). Cities with no policy received no medal. The level of enrollment in the city’s largest Pre-K program as of December 31, 2017.

How did we award high-quality Pre-K medals?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meets 8 out of 10 quality benchmarks for a Pre-K program</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Gold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over 30% of children enrolled in Pre-K programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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For more information or to request technical assistance, visit www.cityhealth.org/join-us.