

## News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI-NR 2015-71

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Contact: Tom McCarthy, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

### Wisconsin one of top states for charters seeking to offer pre-kindergarten

MADISON — A new report that looks at state policies for collaboration between pre-kindergarten and charter schools found Wisconsin to be among the top states for the percentage of elementary charter schools that also offer preschool.

The report, “Pre-K and Charter Schools: Where State Policies Create Barriers to Collaboration,” found that 35 states and the District of Columbia have both state-funded pre-kindergarten and charter laws. In its evaluation of policies, the report found Wisconsin to be among seven states that offer a “hospitable climate” for charters seeking to offer preschool. The state scored 42 of 50 points in the ranking and is reported to have 68 percent of charter elementary schools offering pre-kindergarten. It was among just five states in which 50 percent or more of elementary charter schools also offered preschool.

“Wisconsin enshrined education for 4-year-olds in our state’s constitution, making it easier for all public schools, including charter schools, to offer preschool services to children and families in their communities,” said State Superintendent Evers. “We also have strong chartering laws that encourage collaboration.”

In 1993, Wisconsin became one of the first states to authorize the creation of charter schools and has continually ranked in the top 10 states nationwide for the number of charter schools. Wisconsin had 243 charter schools during the 2014-15 school year. Four-year-old kindergarten (4K) is funded as part of the state school funding formula.

The report mentioned that Wisconsin has no statutory or regulatory barriers to charter schools accessing state funding for pre-kindergarten and allows automatic enrollment from charter pre-kindergarten to kindergarten programs. The report was based on data from the 2013-14 school year and was issued by the [Thomas B. Fordham Institute](http://www.fordham.edu/).

###

**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015\\_71.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_71.pdf).