

## Executive Summary

The Child-Parent Center PreK to 3rd Grade (CPC P-3) program is a targeted school reform effort currently in three Midwestern states. The CPC P3 program aims to strengthen achievement of PreK through elementary school-aged children from low-income families. By partnering with local education and nonprofit agencies in Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, the University of Minnesota is working to implement, research, and sustain the CPC model in high-need schools.

The Child-Parent Center (CPC) Program is a center-based early intervention that provides comprehensive educational and family-support services to economically disadvantaged children from PreK to early elementary school. The CPC program was established in 1967 through funding from Title I of the landmark Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. It is the second oldest (after Head Start) federally funded preschool program in the U. S. and is the oldest extended early childhood intervention. Initially implemented in four sites in Chicago and later expanded to 25, the program is designed to serve families in high-poverty neighborhoods that are not being served by other early childhood programs. The overall goal of the program is to promote children's academic success and to facilitate parent involvement in children's education.

### Major goals of the CPC P-3 program

These goals are consistent with the CPC P-3 program's track record for strengthening schools and communities.

- Promote readiness for Kindergarten in language and literacy, math, science, and socio-emotional learning.
- Increase proficiency and excellence in early school achievement, including reading, math, and science.
- Enhance social adjustment and psychological development in the early grades, including interpersonal relationships, school commitment, and self-control.
- Increase parent involvement and engagement throughout a child's formative academic years.
- Enhance educational success, career opportunities, and personal development for parents and family members.

### Core Program Elements

In the CPC-PK3 program, all centers and sites implement six core elements of the program:

1. **Collaborative leadership team:** A leadership team is run by the Head Teacher in collaboration with the Principal.
2. **Effective learning experiences:** Ensure mastery in language and literacy, math, science, and socio-emotional development throughout early childhood.

3. **Aligned curriculum:** Organize a sequence of evidence-based curricula and instructional practices that address multiple domains of child development within a balanced, activity-based approach.
4. **Parent involvement and engagement:** Comprehensive services are led by the Parent Resource Teachers and School-Community Representatives including multifaceted activities and opportunities to engage families.
5. **Professional development:** Online professional development and onsite follow-up support is integrated for classroom and program applications.
6. **Continuity and stability:** PreK to school-age continuity, through co-located or close-by centers, incorporates comprehensive service delivery and stability for children and families.

The Child Parent Center PreK to 3rd Grade (CPC P-3) program is a school reform model that provides comprehensive educational and family support services to children from PreK to 3rd grade. Originally established in the 1960s in Chicago, the program was significantly modified and expanded in 2012 by the Human Capital Research Collaborative at the University of Minnesota. This manual is the culmination of the revision process, leading to a scalable model for communities and schools. For over four decades, research on the CPC program and its elements has demonstrated that it is one of the nation's most effective social programs.

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**“Every child in the City of Chicago should have access to PreK, regardless of neighborhood or family income. In Chicago, high-quality PreK and Kindergarten is not the exception, it is the expectation. This will provide all of our students with the foundational learning necessary to take them on to college, career, and a successful future.”<sup>1</sup>**

*Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel*

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