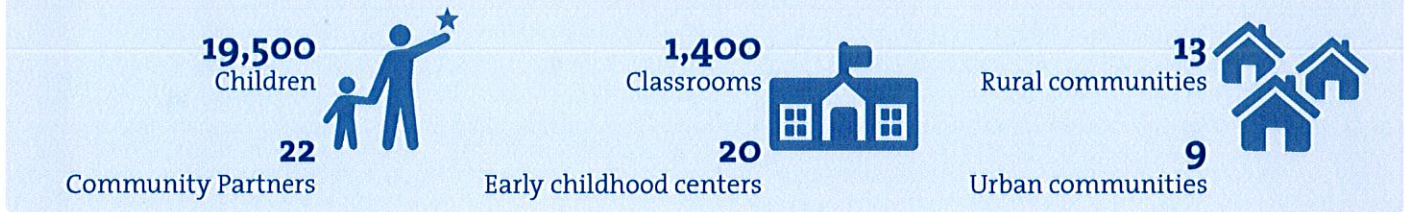


The **Oklahoma Early Childhood Program (OEC)** leverages public funding with matching private dollars to expand the supply of high-quality birth through age three early education for low-income children.



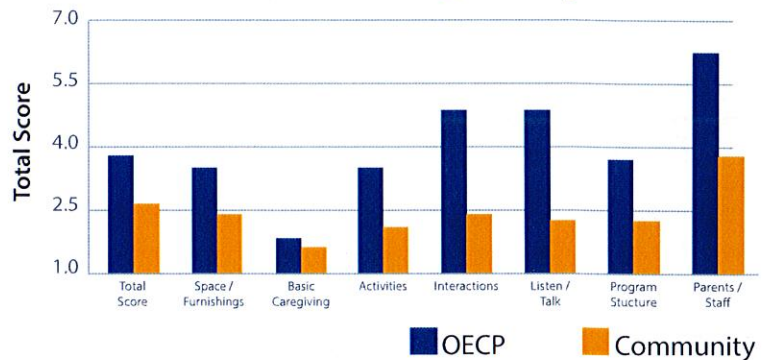
Created in 2006, eligible providers include child care centers, school districts, tribal and community agencies, and local Head Start and Early Head Start program operators. Since its inception, OEC has benefited:



Large Impact

- OEC is a national model¹ for states and communities
- The University of Oklahoma's Early Childhood Education Institute independently evaluates OEC on an annual basis and has documented that, compared with typical community child care centers (as measured by ITERS-S), OEC classrooms have:
 - Higher quality environments (see chart)²
 - More intentional language interactions
 - Higher child growth in language and social emotional development
- Every dollar spent on high quality, birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children delivers a 13% per annum return on investment.³

Classroom Quality



OEC Features

Quality: All centers meet both the state Department of Human Services, highest possible three-star-standard, and selected requirements from Head Start Program Performance Standards. Participating programs must be in the process of being accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children

Teacher Qualifications: Every classroom has two teachers at all times, and at least one bachelor-degreed teacher is staffed for every two classrooms

Pay Equity: Lead teachers with a bachelor's degree are paid comparably to public school teachers

Training: Teachers receive 32 hours of WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Care training their first year of employment, and providers receive additional supports for creating quality programs

Time: Services are provided 46 weeks of the year and at least eight hours per day

Statewide Early Childhood Centers



¹ <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/180-oklahoma-early-head-start-initiative>

² The University of Oklahoma-Tulsa, Early Childhood Education Institute, State of Oklahoma Pilot Early Childhood Program Phase III Evaluation

³ <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/research-summary-lifecycle-benefits-influential-early-childhood-program/>