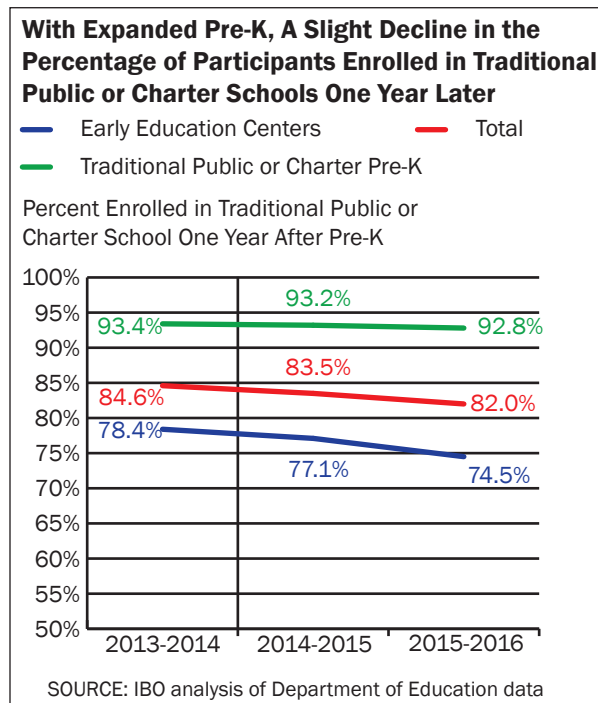


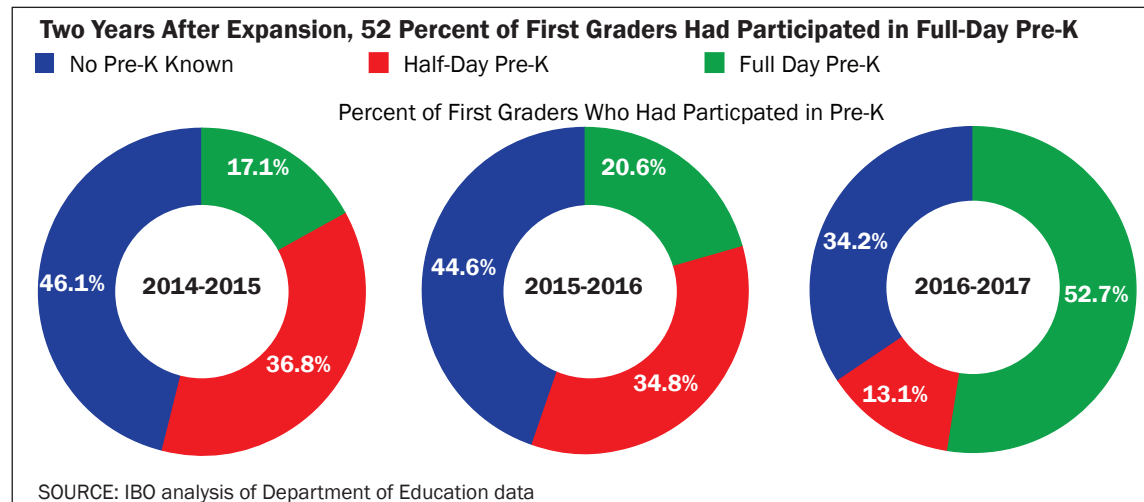
Since the Expansion of Pre-K, Do More Students Move on to Traditional Public and Charter Schools for Kindergarten and First Grade?

Mayor de Blasio launched an expansion of full-day prekindergarten in the 2014-2015 school year, promising access to every 4-year old by 2015-2016. Last school year almost 70,000 4-year-olds participated in full-day pre-k, more than quadruple the number four years earlier, and the number of children in half-day pre-k dwindled from nearly 39,000 to less than 2,700 over the same period.

The first group of students in the expanded pre-k program entered first grade in the 2016-2017 school year, which ended in June. After pre-k, where did these students enroll? What share went to traditional public schools? What share went to charter schools?



- The city's prekindergarten program operates in traditional Department of Education public schools, charter schools, and early education centers run by community-based organizations.
- As the number of students enrolled in prekindergarten has grown by over 16,000—including 9,600 in community-based centers—the percentage of these children subsequently enrolling at traditional public or charter schools has declined. The drop-off was steepest for the participants in community-based pre-k.



- Last school year, 78,589 6-year-olds were enrolled in first grade in either a traditional public or charter school. Nearly 53 percent of these first graders had participated in a full-day pre-k program previously—more than triple the percentage among 2014-2015's first graders. An additional 13 percent had participated in half-day pre-k, a little more than a third of the percentage among first graders two years ago.
- Students whose education department records indicate no pre-k participation may not have been living in the city at age 4 or may have not been enrolled in any formal program; others may have been enrolled in private pre-k or the state-funded special education pre-k program.
- Of the 34 percent of last school year's first graders who had not been enrolled in a Department of Education prekindergarten program, 90 percent attended kindergarten in 2015-2016. About 27 percent of these children were enrolled in special education classes prior to kindergarten in 2015-2016. It is possible that they may have been enrolled in special education prekindergarten previously.
- Roughly 62 percent of the first graders who had not attended an education department pre-k program came from homes where English was not the primary language, indicating a possible area where more outreach and recruitment could yield results.