

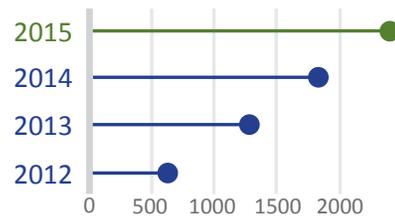


# Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge

## Minnesota's 2015 Year in Review

In 2011, Minnesota was one of nine states awarded a federal Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Grant. This \$45 million award for 2012-2016 is designed to improve early learning and development opportunities for Minnesota's children. Minnesota made great strides in the fourth year of the grant to improve outcomes for children through increased access to high-quality services birth through grade three, with a focus on sustainability.

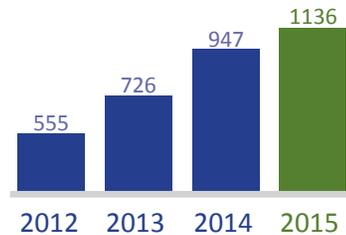
On January 1, 2015, Parent Aware quality ratings and improvement supports became available statewide. As of the end of 2015, **2,434 early care and education programs have been rated.**



**Twenty-seven school districts are currently utilizing Title I funds and Title I Pre-K Incentives.** Districts have reported many positive outcomes, including improved coordination between early childhood and K-12 education.



In 2015, **1,136 early childhood professionals were progressing to higher levels of credentials** that align with the Minnesota Knowledge and Competency Framework. This includes early childhood credentials, certificates, diplomas, degrees and licenses.



In addition to the 964 children served by Race to the Top scholarships, sustainability efforts were aided by increased funding from the Minnesota Legislature so that approximately **9,000 children received early learning scholarships in 2015.**

# 9,000

children served

Minnesota began **revising the Math and Science standards** within the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress. Work has also begun on a set of practice briefs to encourage use of this tool.



**A menu of assessment tools, called the Kindergarten Entry Profile was rolled out in 2015.** These tools are designed to measure children's status on the state early learning standards beginning at kindergarten entry.



**An online assessment tool finder was made available for early learning programs,** which matches respondents with assessments based on needs. All commercially available Parent Aware approved tools and KEP assessments are included.



The **Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System website was launched and won a national IT Program of the Year award** in the StateScoop 50 Awards. The site will help fill many gaps in knowledge on children's early childhood experiences.



This product is made possible using federal funding, CFDA 84.412A – Federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant.