

Using Family Surveys to STEP Forward with Data

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Introduction

The [System Transformation for Equitable Preschools \(STEP\) Forward with Data Framework](#) is a tool to help preschool system leaders understand the experiences of preschool-aged children, their families, and early childhood workforce members. The Framework includes 20 essential questions and is flexible so that users can focus on one or more questions with one or more metrics, depending on their unique goals and context.

The Framework identifies six types of data sources to answer the 20 questions and associated metrics: administrative data, administrator documentation, community family surveys, preschool family surveys, program documentation and surveys, or workforce member surveys. One data source may be used to answer multiple questions, and one question may be answered with more than one data source. **In this resource series, we focus on how preschool system leaders, or those who oversee or can influence system-level decisions about preschool programs, can use individual data sources to answer multiple questions from the Framework**, which offers valuable insights into various aspects of their preschool system.

This resource highlights how surveys of families (both families in the community and families with children attending preschool) can be used to understand what is happening in their preschool system. We provide an overview of family surveys and then outline which Framework questions can be answered.

Overview of Family Surveys

Surveys are a valuable tool for preschool system leaders to understand families' needs, expectations, and experiences by gathering information directly from those most affected by system-level decisions. This resource outlines how survey data can help answer questions from the STEP Forward with Data Framework related to families living in the community and those enrolled in preschool.

Leaders can survey two key groups—community families and enrolled families—to gain insights into how families access programs, their experiences within them, and their transitions out. A sample survey is included, with guidance on which questions apply to each group, and can be adapted or integrated into existing surveys. While the focus is on surveys, the guidance can also inform other family-centered data collection methods such as focus groups or interviews, based on community needs.

Community families

Many families may be eligible for preschool but choose not to—or are unable to—enroll their child. In the Framework, community families are defined as those with children not currently enrolled in preschool. These families may have opted out, faced barriers to enrollment, or unenrolled for various reasons. Although their experiences differ, community families offer valuable insights. Their perspectives can inform system improvements, highlight early learning preferences, and help identify underrepresented groups. Understanding these families can guide changes to better meet their needs and potentially increase enrollment.

Preschool families

In the Framework, preschool families are those with children currently enrolled in and attending preschool. Their firsthand experience offers valuable insights for decision making, as they have interacted with all parts of the system—from enrollment to transitions. They can also speak to areas community families cannot, such as the learning environment and facilities. Since these families are already engaged, leaders can use enrollment lists to efficiently gather data from them.

Essential Questions and Metrics Answered by Family Surveys

The following section identifies the Framework questions and associated metrics for which a family survey could be used. For each metric, this resource offers sample survey items. As noted, some questions are meant for preschool families, some for community families, and some for both, as noted in the tables below. Preschool system leaders can choose to use one or more metrics to answer each essential question. To offer preschool system leaders further flexibility, multiple survey questions are provided in the tables below as a starting point for leaders to use or adapt to best meet their system’s needs (see [Appendix A](#) for a sample community family survey and [Appendix B](#) for a sample preschool family survey).



Supply

Q1. Does the existing supply meet the needs of families from focal populations?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of children from focal populations who did not experience a change in teacher/provider during the program, school, or calendar year (supports child’s development)	Preschool	In the last program/school/calendar year, did your child experience a change in the lead teacher or provider while at the same program?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Preschool	If your child experienced a change in teacher or provider, how many times did your child experience a change in the last program/school/calendar year while at the same program?	Numeric value
Percentage of families from focal populations who do not pay above a system-defined threshold of affordability (affordability)	Preschool	How much do you spend each year on your preschool (including tuition, fees, and supplies)?	Numeric value
	Preschool	How much do you spend each month on preschool?	Numeric value
	Preschool	What percentage of your families’ monthly budget goes toward preschool?	Numeric value 0-100
Percentage of families from focal populations who report being able to afford to enroll their children in their preschool program (affordability)	Preschool	What percentage of your household monthly/annual income do you spend on costs related to preschool attendance (Tuition, fees, supplies)?	Numeric value 0-100
	Preschool	When thinking about whether to enroll your child in preschool, was the cost of preschool a factor?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Preschool	What is the monthly/annual cost of preschool?	Numeric value

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
	Community	Was the cost of preschool a barrier for you to enroll your child?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Community	If yes, Follow up question: What would the monthly/annual cost of preschool need to be for you to consider enrolling your child?	Range of prices
Percentage of families from focal populations who were able to enroll in their preferred preschool program (reasonable effort)	Preschool	When you selected this care, how many options did you consider before enrolling your child at this location?	Numeric value
	Preschool	Did you wish you had more options to select from?	Yes/No
	Community	Were you interested in preschool but ultimately did not enroll your child in a preschool program?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Community	How many options did you consider before choosing not to enroll your child in preschool?	Numeric value
	Community	If you considered a preschool program option but ultimately did not enroll your child, were you unable to enroll your child because there was no availability at the program?	Yes/No
	Community	When thinking about enrolling your child into preschool, were there programs that met your needs but were unavailable for you to access?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Community	Did you not enroll your child because the programs available to you did not meet your needs?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Community	Did you enroll your child in a preschool program but withdraw from enrollment?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Community	Follow up question: What factors led you to disenroll your child from your selected preschool program?	Open-ended response
Percentage of program sites that support a language other than English (supports child's development)	Preschool	What languages do staff at your preschool site speak?	Select all that apply from a list of languages
	Preschool	What languages do your child's teacher/provider speak?	Select all that apply from a list of languages
Preschool system has enough preschool openings for the number of children who want to attend preschool, especially those from focal populations (reasonable effort)	Preschool	When you selected this preschool, how many options did you consider before enrolling your child at this location?	Numeric value
	Preschool	Did you wish you had more options to select from?	Yes/No
	Preschool	How many preschool options did you consider before enrolling your child into their current program?	Numeric value
	Preschool	Of the other programs you considered but ultimately did not enroll your child in, were you unable to enroll your child because there was no availability in the program?	Yes/No

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
	Preschool	If yes, were you given the option to be placed on a waitlist?	Yes, No
	Preschool	Were you put on a waitlist?	Yes, No, Unsure

Outreach

Q2. Do outreach methods improve knowledge and understanding of program options among families from focal populations?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of families from focal populations who report having knowledge and understanding of their preschool options	Preschool and community	How did you learn about preschool options in your community?	Select all that apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV ad • Radio ad • Billboard • Flyer sent to my home • Flyer at local community location (e.g., grocery store, library, social services agency, doctor's office) • Social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram) Other, specify:
	Preschool and community	How would you rate your knowledge and understanding of the preschool options in your community?	Very knowledgeable, somewhat knowledgeable, Not knowledgeable, Unsure

Q4. Do enrollment procedures help families from focal populations attend programs they want?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of families from focal populations who report no barriers to enrolling children in the program of their choice	Preschool	What types of barriers did you face when enrolling your child into their current preschool?	Open-ended response
	Preschool	Which of the following barriers did you experience when enrolling your child in their current preschool?	Select all that apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the steps I needed to take to enroll my child • Identifying the types of documentation I needed to submit • Securing the documentation I needed to submit • Understanding the forms I needed to complete due to language used (either complicated terms or not translated into the language I use at home) • Was put on a waitlist • Technology barriers • Other, specify • I did not face any barriers.
	Community	Which factors led to you not enrolling your child in preschool?	Select all that apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No spots available • The cost to attend was more than I could afford • The program does not accept child care subsidy payments • The program's location was too far from my home • Program hours didn't meet my family's needs • Program offerings (transportation, languages spoken, food program participation, special education services) didn't meet my family's needs • I was concerned about program quality • I had health and safety concerns about the facility • I prefer not to enroll my child in preschool and/or prefer to provide preschool education to my child at another type of care or at home



Learning experiences

Q10. Do children from focal populations receive positive behavior supports?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
<p>Percentage of children from focal populations reporting positive feelings toward their program</p>	<p>Preschool</p>	<p>Sample questions from Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) How I Feel About My School questionnaire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like coming to school everyday. • I feel safe at school. • I have friends at school. • People care about each other in my class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree, mostly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, disagree
<p>Percentage of children who do not experience any of the following: in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, disciplinary use of restraint and seclusion, or expulsions</p>	<p>Preschool and community</p>	<p>Did your child experience any of the following during their time in preschool if they attended? Select all that apply:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-school suspension, or instances when a child is temporarily removed from the regular learning setting for at least half a day but still under preschool staff supervision • Out-of-school suspension, or instances when a child is temporarily removed from the regular learning setting for at least half a day but supervised by non-preschool staff (e.g., with family at home or by staff from another center) • Disciplinary use of restraint, or instances when a mechanical or physical device was used to restrain the child to restrict their movement • Disciplinary use of seclusion, or instances when the child was involuntarily confined alone away from other students and prevented from leaving (this does not include behavior management techniques, such as time-outs or calming spaces) • Expulsion, or instances when a child is removed from the learning setting for the remainder of the school year for disciplinary purposes • None of the above

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of families from focal populations who report that their children experience positive behavior supports	Preschool	Have you been provided with written disciplinary policies for your child's program?	Yes, No
	Preschool	Do you believe your child understands classroom behavior expectations?	Yes, No
	Preschool	Does your child's program use a positive behavior support structure (e.g., Pyramid Model, Conscious Discipline, Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports, etc.)?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Preschool	I feel comfortable working with my child's teacher (or program administrator) to understand and support my child's behavioral needs	Strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree

Q11. Do children from focal populations have the learning accommodations they need?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of children from focal populations who have a learning accommodation provided to them in an inclusive setting	Preschool	Have you or have program staff identified a learning accommodation that can help your child participate in the same classroom tasks as other students (Visual aids, more frequent breaks, etc.)?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Preschool	Has your child received a learning accommodation (Visual aids, more frequent breaks, etc.) to enable his or her participation in the same classroom tasks as other students?	Yes, No, Unsure
Percentage of children from focal populations with identified concerns who are connected to services	Preschool	Have you or have program staff identified a developmental or health concern for your child (e.g., speech delay, difficulty with gross or fine motor skills)?	Yes, No, Unsure

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
	Preschool	Has your child received services to support him or her with an identified developmental or health concern (e.g., speech delay, difficulty with gross or fine motor skills)?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Preschool	The program my child attends has provided me with information on how I can support my child's development.	Strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, unsure
Percentage of families from focal populations who are satisfied with the learning accommodations provided to their children	Preschool	How satisfied are you with the learning accommodations that have been provided to your child by his or her preschool program?	Very satisfied, satisfied, not satisfied
	Preschool	How can the learning accommodations provided to your child by his or her preschool program be improved?	Open-ended response
	Preschool	In what ways are the learning accommodations provided to your child by his or her preschool program supporting your child's development?	Open-ended response
	Preschool	In what ways are the learning accommodations provided to your child by his or her preschool program not meeting your expectations?	Open-ended response

Q12. Does the program offer or connect families from focal populations with whole family services?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of families from focal populations who use whole family services	Preschool	Does your child's preschool program provide services or referrals to meet families' social, health, or economic needs (e.g., housing, food, health, education, employment, parenting resources, social services, etc.)?	Yes, No, Unsure

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
	Preschool	Has your family made use of the services or referrals (e.g., housing, food, health, education, employment, parenting resources, social services, etc.) offered by your child's preschool program?	Yes, No
	Preschool	Which services or referrals has your family received from your child's preschool program to meet your family's social, health, or economic needs (e.g., nutritional support, case management, employment support, etc.)?	Open-ended response
Percentage of programs that provide referrals to families from focal populations about whole family services	Preschool	Has your family been offered services or referrals to meet your families' social, health, or economic needs by your child's preschool program (e.g., housing, food, health, education, employment, parenting resources, social services, etc.)?	Yes, No, Unsure

Q14. Are facilities structured and maintained to support the well-being of children from focal populations?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of families from focal populations who report that their children are in facilities that support their well-being	Preschool	The building, classrooms, outdoor spaces, and other physical features of my child's preschool programs support my child's well-being.	Strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree
	Preschool	What improvements can be made to the buildings, classrooms, outdoor spaces, and other physical features of your child's preschool program to support your child's well-being?	Open-ended response

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of program sites that ensure the safety and security of children and workforce members, in programs where focal populations make up at least half of the student population	Preschool	My child feels safe and secure while attending their preschool program.	Strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree
	Preschool	What changes can be made to improve the safety and security of the preschool site your child attends?	Open-ended response
Percentage of program sites that have the infrastructure necessary to support student learning, in systems where focal populations make up at least half of the student population	Preschool	Does your child's preschool site have the infrastructure (equipment, maintenance, funding, staff, etc.) necessary to support student learning?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Preschool	What infrastructure improvements can be made to better support student learning?	Open-ended response
Percentage of program sites that meet children and workforce members' health and hygienic needs, in programs where focal populations make up at least half of the student population	Preschool	My child's preschool site has the materials and processes (hand washing protocols, illness protocols, protective equipment, soap, warm water, sinks in classrooms, facility cleaning supplies, etc.) to meet my children's needs.	Strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree



Transitions

Q15. Do transition activities meet the needs of families from focal populations?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of families from focal populations who report that their program offers transition supports that meet their needs	Preschool	During which of the following transition activities has your preschool provided support?	Select all that apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When changing teachers or providers When changing classrooms When transitioning to kindergarten Other, specify
	Preschool	How well do these supports meet your needs?	Very well, somewhat well, not well
	Preschool	What, if anything, could the preschool program do to better support your transition needs?	Open-ended response
Percentage of programs that minimize the number of transitions when supporting children with learning accommodations	Preschool	Does your child's learning accommodation require them to receive supports or services outside of their regular learning environment?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Preschool	If applicable, where does your child receive their learning accommodation?	Select all that apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In their learning environment In another location within the same facility as the preschool In another location outside of the preschool facility during preschool operating hours
	Preschool	What percentage of your child's day is spent in a location outside of their regular learning environment to receive services or supports related to their learning accommodation?	Numeric value 0-100

Q16. Are children from focal populations reaching developmental and learning milestones when transitioning to kindergarten?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of children from focal populations meeting benchmarks across all developmental domains (language/literacy; cognition; social emotional development; approaches to learning; and physical development)	Preschool	In thinking about the transition to kindergarten, do you feel your child is meeting the expected developmental milestones?	Yes, No, Unsure
	Preschool	How well do you feel the preschool program has prepared your child to meet expected developmental milestones?	Very well, somewhat well, not well
	Preschool	What, if anything, could the preschool program do to ensure your child is meeting developmental milestones across all developmental domains?	Open-ended response

Q17. Are families from focal populations and workforce members engaged in shared leadership?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of families from focal populations who report that they are consulted, involved, or collaborate, or are a co-creator in systems level changes, policies, or programmatic decisions	Preschool	In thinking about how decisions are made about the preschool system, which of the following characterizes your engagement in decision making?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a co-creator in the system where I have an active role in making decisions • I am a collaborator in the system where I am involved in various aspects of the system, but not the final decision maker • I am involved in the decision making process where I am invited to make decisions on specific issues, topics, or activities • I am a consultant where my feedback is solicited to inform decisions, but I am not involved in any decision making • I am informed when decisions are made, but I am not involved in any aspect of decision making • I have no role • Unsure

Q19. Is there system-level guidance for how to support equitable experiences for children, families, and workforce members?

Recommended Metric	Audience	Survey Question Options	Response Options
Percentage of families and workforce members reporting positive relationship quality with one another	Preschool	A series of questions can draw from existing measures, such as the Family and Provider/Teacher Relationship Quality (FPTRQ), which has a short-form survey in English and Spanish .	<i>See response items in the surveys linked in previous column.</i>
	Preschool	How do you feel about your relationship with your child’s teacher/provider?	Very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, very negative
Preschool system leaders regularly evaluate whether their guidance meets the needs of children and families from focal populations	Preschool and Community	Which of the following aspects of preschool programs in your area meet your needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enrollment process • The eligibility requirements • Locations of preschool programs • The curriculum used in preschools • The experiences within the classroom • Teacher and provider qualifications and experience • The ways the program engages and supports families • The ways the program supports my child’s unique needs and development • Unsure
	Community	What, if anything, would have needed to be changed about the current preschool program offerings for you to consider enrolling your child?	Open-ended response

Final Thoughts

Preschool system leaders should consider how they engage families both in their preschool programs and within their community, including those whose children are not currently enrolled in the preschool system. Through family engagement, leaders can gather important information about families’ needs and experience with the preschool system that could support a family-driven approach to systemwide improvements. A survey administered to families allows preschool system leaders to learn more about why families may have selected not to engage with the preschool system.

Tips when administering a family survey

- **Decide on the audience:** Survey preschool and community families either together or separately. Use skip logic to tailor questions based on their preschool involvement.
- **Collect demographics thoughtfully:** Include optional questions on race, income, language, etc., either at the beginning or end to allow disaggregation by focal population.
- **Use multiple formats:** Increase response rates by offering the survey via paper, online tools, and social media.
- **Offer incentives:** Providing incentives can encourage participation and show appreciation for the time families spend on the survey.
- **Leverage trusted partners:** Collaborate with preschool sites, libraries, schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations to reach families.
- **Explore alternative approaches:** Surveys are a low-cost way to gather input from families, but leaders can also use alternatives (e.g., focus groups, town halls) that may better suit certain communities or populations.
- **Ensure language access:** Translate surveys into the primary languages spoken in the community.

Appendix A. Sample Community Family Survey

Below is a sample community family survey that could be administered to families whose children are not currently enrolled in the preschool program to allow preschool system users to gather data for each of the recommended metrics. This survey only asks questions that align to the recommended metrics from the Framework. Preschool system leaders interested in gathering information from community families can adapt the following sample survey or integrate these questions into existing surveys to capture other experiences beyond the Framework. Leaders should consider what they want to learn and how best to ask these questions.

Introduction

The goal of this short survey is to understand more about how our preschool system can best support families in our community when thinking about enrolling in preschool. This survey should not take more than 10 minutes of your time. By continuing with the survey, you are agreeing to participate. You are welcome to skip any question you do not want to answer. We will actively incorporate the feedback you provide to make improvements to our preschool system. This survey is anonymous, which we hope will encourage you to share as honestly as possible.

Enrollment and outreach

We want to learn more about your family and your child's enrollment decision for this year.

1. How, if at all, did you learn about our preschool? Select all that apply.
 - a. TV ad
 - b. Radio ad
 - c. Billboard
 - d. Mailer or flyer sent to my home
 - e. Flyer or brochure at local community location (e.g., grocery store, library, social services agency, doctor's office)
 - f. Social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram)
 - g. Other, specify:
 - h. Did not hear about preschool
2. How would you rate your knowledge and understanding of the preschool options in your community?
 - a. Very knowledgeable
 - b. Somewhat knowledgeable
 - c. Not knowledgeable
3. Although you did not enroll your child, were you interested in enrolling your child in preschool?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No (*skip to Question 8*)
 - c. Unsure (*skip to Question 8*)
4. Which of the following were reasons you did not enroll your child in a preschool program? (*select all that apply*)
 - a. I could not afford the cost of preschool (*skip to Question 8*)
 - b. The preschool options did not meet my family's schedule (*skip to Question 8*)
 - c. The preschool options did not meet my child's needs (*skip to Question 8*)
 - d. There was no availability at the preschool I wanted (*skip to Question 5*)
 - e. My child was suspended or expelled from preschool (*skip to Question 8*)
 - f. Other, specify

5. Were you put on a waitlist?
 - a. Yes (*skip to Question 8*)
 - b. No (*skip to Question 8*)
 - c. Unsure (*skip to Question 8*)
6. Did you enroll but withdraw your enrollment from preschool at any time?
 - a. Yes, before my child attended
 - b. Yes, after my child attended
 - c. No (*skip to end*)
7. What factors led you to unenroll your child from your selected preschool program? (*check all that apply*)
 - a. Tuition increase
 - b. Loss of subsidy
 - c. Program was too far from home
 - d. Did not have adequate transportation to the program
 - e. Program hours did not align with new scheduling needs
 - f. Poor communication from program
 - g. Disciplinary actions (e.g., in-school suspension, unfair disciplinary use)
 - h. Safety concerns of the facility
 - i. Safety concerns with staff
 - j. Program was unable to meet my child's needs
 - k. Preferred another care provider or care option
 - l. Other, specify
8. When thinking about enrolling a child in preschool, how many preschool options did you or would you consider before selecting an option?
9. What, if anything, would make you consider enrolling your child in our preschool programs? Open-ended

Closing

Thank you so much for sharing your insights! Let us know if you have any other feedback that we should consider when improving our preschool system.

Appendix B. Sample Preschool Family Survey

Below is a sample preschool family survey that could be administered to families whose children are currently enrolled in the preschool system to allow preschool system users to gather data for each of the recommended metrics. This survey only asks questions that align to the recommended metrics from the Framework. Preschool system leaders interested in gathering information from preschool families can adapt the following sample survey or integrate these questions into existing surveys to capture other experience beyond the Framework. Leaders should consider what they want to learn and how best to ask these questions.

Introduction

The goal of this survey is to understand more about how our preschool system can best support families in our community when thinking about enrolling in preschool. This survey should not take more than 30 minutes of your time. By continuing with the survey, you are agreeing to participate. You are welcome to skip any question you do not want to answer. We will actively incorporate the feedback you provide to make improvements to our preschool system. This survey is anonymous, which we hope will encourage you to share as honestly as possible.

Enrollment

In this section, we want to know more about the considerations and the process you took as you were enrolling in preschool. This information will help us understand whether we could improve the enrollment experience.

1. How did you learn about preschool options in your community? Select all that apply.
 - a. TV ad
 - b. Radio ad
 - c. Billboard
 - d. Flyer sent to my home
 - e. Flyer at local community location (e.g., grocery store, library, social services agency, doctor's office)
 - f. Social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram)
 - g. Other, specify:
2. Which of the following aspects of preschool programs in your area meet your needs (select all that apply):
 - a. The enrollment process
 - b. The eligibility requirements
 - c. The cost of preschool
 - d. Locations of preschool programs
 - e. The curriculum used in preschools
 - f. The experiences within the classroom
 - g. Teacher and provider qualifications and experience
 - h. The ways the program engages and supports families
 - i. The ways the program supports my child's unique needs and development
 - j. Unsure
3. What percentage of your families' monthly budget goes toward preschool? (*Numeric value 0-100*)
4. How many preschool options did you consider before enrolling your child into their current program? (*Numeric value*)
5. Were you able to get into your first choice preschool?
 - a. Yes, I got into my first choice
 - b. No, I did not get into my first choice because there was no availability

- c. No, I did not get into my first choice because it was not affordable
 - d. No, I did not get into my first choice because of eligibility requirements
 - e. No, I did not get into my first choice for another reason
6. Which, if any, of the following barriers did you experience when enrolling your child in their current preschool? *Select all that apply.*
- a. Understanding the steps I needed to take to enroll my child.
 - b. Identifying the types of documentation I needed to submit.
 - c. Securing the documentation I needed to submit.
 - d. Understanding the forms I needed to complete due to language used (either complicated terms or not translated into the language I use at home)
 - e. Was put on a waitlist
 - f. Technology barriers
 - g. Other, specify
 - h. I did not face any barriers.

Learning environment

For the next set of questions, we want to know more about the environment in which your child learns.

7. Rate your level of agreement on the following characteristics of your facility, or the space where your child learns.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
The facility has what it needs to support children’s learning (equipment, maintenance, materials, etc.)					
I feel my child is safe and secure in the facility.					
The facility is hygienic for my child (hand washing protocols, illness protocols, protective equipment, soap, warm water, sinks in classrooms, facility cleaning supplies, etc.)					
The facility promotes my child’s optimal well-being (e.g., through staff, activities, and engagement strategies)					

8. What improvements, if any, would you make to your space or facility? (*Open-ended response*)
9. In the last program/school/calendar year, did your child experience a change in the lead teacher or provider while at the same program?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Unsure
10. Has your child experienced any of the following during their time in preschool? *Select all that apply:*
- a. **In-school suspension**, or instances when a child is temporarily removed from the regular learning setting for at least half a day but still under preschool staff supervision
 - b. **Out-of-school suspension**, or instances when a child is temporarily removed from the regular learning setting for at least half a day but supervised by non-preschool staff (e.g., with family at home or by staff from another center)
 - c. **Disciplinary use of restraint**, or instances when a mechanical or physical device was used to restrain the child to restrict their movement

- d. **Disciplinary use of seclusion**, or instances when the child was involuntarily confined alone away from other students and prevented from leaving (this does not include behavior management techniques, such as time-outs or calming spaces)
 - e. **Expulsion**, or instances when a child is removed from the learning setting for the remainder of the school year for disciplinary purposes
 - f. **None of the above**
11. Which of the following services does your child’s preschool program provide directly or through referrals? *(Select all that apply)*
- a. Housing
 - b. Food support
 - c. Health services
 - d. Supplemental educational supports
 - e. Employment supports
 - f. Social services
 - g. Parenting education
 - h. Other, specify
12. During which of the following transitions has your preschool provided support (select all that apply)?
- a. When changing teachers or providers
 - b. When changing classrooms
 - c. When transitioning to kindergarten
 - d. I have not experienced any of these transitions
 - e. Other, specify
13. What languages do your child’s teacher/provider speak? *(Select all that apply from a list of languages)*
14. Rate your level of agreement with the following statements

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
I have a positive relationship with my child’s teacher or provider.					
I feel comfortable working with my child’s teacher or provider to understand how to support my child’s behavioral needs.					
My child likes coming to school everyday					
My child feels safe at preschool					
My child has friends at school					
People care about each other in my child’s preschool					
The program my child attends has provided me with information on how I can support my child’s development					
In thinking about the transition to kindergarten, preschool has supported my child in meeting the expected developmental milestones					

Learning accommodations

The following section is focused on learning accommodations or supports for children who have identified needs.

15. Have you or have program staff identified a developmental or health concern for your child (e.g., speech delay, difficulty with gross or fine motor skills)?
- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
16. Does your child have a learning accommodation or need that must be provided by your preschool?
- Yes
 - No (skip to Closing section)
 - Unsure (skip to Closing section)
17. Rate your level of agreement with the following statements

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
The preschool has provided a learning accommodation for my child to allow them to participate in the same classroom tasks as other children.					
The preschool has provided a learning accommodation that requires my child to receive supports outside of their regular learning environment.					
I am satisfied with the learning accommodations that my preschool has provided to my child.					
The learning accommodations provided to my child support their optimal development.					
The learning accommodations provided to my child meet my family's expectations.					

18. How can the learning accommodations provided to your child by his or her preschool program be improved? (*Open-ended response*)

Closing

19. In thinking about how decisions are made about the preschool system, which of the following characterizes your engagement in decision making?
- I am a co-creator in the system where I have an active role in making decisions
 - I am a collaborator in the system where I am involved in various aspects of the system, but not the final decision maker
 - I am involved in the decision making process where I am invited to make decisions on specific issues, topics, or activities
 - I am a consultant where my feedback is solicited to inform decisions, but I am not involved in any decision making
 - I am informed when decisions are made, but I am not involved in any aspect of decision making
 - I have no role
 - Unsure

Thank you so much for sharing your insights! Let us know if you have any other feedback that we should consider when improving our preschool system.

About the Data Source Series to Support the STEP Forward with Data Framework

This resource is part of a series to support preschool system leaders with implementing the STEP Forward with Data Framework. The Framework outlines six types of data sources that can be used to answer 20 essential questions. Each resource in this series focuses on how to use one of the data sources to answer the questions in the Framework. To learn more about the other data sources and access the entire series, go to our [Tools](#) page.

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Key Terms

Preschool: Early learning programs offered to 3- and 4-year-olds. In the Framework, we focus on those that are local, state, Tribal, or federally funded, including through state-funded, locally funded, and Tribal preschool and Head Start programs.

Preschool program: A type of preschool with a shared approach or curriculum, set of standards or regulations, funding stream, and/or administration (e.g., Head Start).

Preschool site: The location at which a child receives preschool, including center-, school-, home-, or faith-based settings.

Preschool system: The set of preschool programs that are overseen by a common set of leaders. The preschool programs in the system could be one type of program (e.g., state public pre-K) or multiple programs (e.g., Head Start, subsidized family child care, and state-funded pre-K).

Preschool systems leaders: Those who oversee preschool programs and who can influence systems-level decisions about how to improve preschool programs. Leaders may include state public pre-K administrators, Head Start State Collaboration Office directors, federal Head Start administrators, Head Start grantees overseeing large or multi-site preschool programs, Tribal early childhood administrators, state officers or administrators managing systems-wide early childhood initiatives, and city- or county-wide public preschool administrators.