

## HR 4965

Pre-K for USA Act

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** Jun 25, 2014

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education. (Nov 17, 2014)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4965>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Jun 25, 2014
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		Jun 25, 2014
Rep. Garcia, Joe [D-FL-26]	D · FL		Jun 26, 2014
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Jul 8, 2014
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Dec 10, 2014

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 17, 2014

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Education

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

Pre-K for USA Act - Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), acting jointly in accordance with an interagency agreement, to award competitive grants to local educational agencies or local governmental entities to develop, enhance, or expand high-quality preschool programs.

Requires each of those programs to include structural elements that are evidence-based and nationally recognized as important for ensuring program quality, including, at a minimum:

- high staff qualifications, including having a teacher with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or in any field with a state-approved alternate pathway to teaching preschool children and having teaching assistants with appropriate credentials;
- high-quality professional development for all staff;
- at least 1 staff member for every 10 children;
- a class size that does not exceed 20 children;
- a full-day program;
- the full inclusion of disabled children;
- developmentally appropriate curricula and learning environments, that are aligned with state early learning and development standards, for at least the year preceding kindergarten;
- individualized accommodations and supports so that all children can participate fully in learning activities;
- instructional staff salaries that are comparable to the salaries of kindergarten through grade 12 teaching staff;
- program evaluation to ensure continuous improvement;
- onsite or accessible comprehensive services for children; and
- health and safety standards.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Nov 17, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.
- **Jun 25, 2014:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 25, 2014:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H5736)
- **Jun 25, 2014:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.