This chapter is dedicated to exploring participation trends of Minnesota children in ECE programs by poverty and race. Participation trend data can be used to forecast changes in the demand for specific programs in the future, or to learn how children and families are accessing multiple programs over several years.

Poverty and race participation trends also illustrate how programs complement one another in practice, or how staff might adjust their outreach to better serve children of a specific demographic.
The following dashboard will allow you to discover the ECE participation trends by poverty and race in your county, school district, or legislative district (https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/). In The Value of Early Learning, MFIP/DWP and Food Assistance are used as a proxy for understanding lower socioeconomic status.

Note: The increased participation rate of children of color and the increase in known participation in ECE programs across all races and ethnicities may be partly attributed to increased collection of data for ECFE and District Preschool.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- Kindergartener participation in MFIP and SNAP has remained relatively stable from 2013 to 2018.

- Only about \(\frac{3}{8}\) of ECFE participants receive income or food assistance whereas about \(\frac{1}{2}\) of families participating in ECSE receive cash or food assistance.

- The largest increase in participation was observed amongst kindergarteners whose families received no cash or food assistance because it is a universal program open to all families.

- ECFE tends to attract families that are less likely to access MFIP and SNAP.
End of Chapter 5