

# South Dakota

## NO PROGRAM

South Dakota currently does not offer a state-funded preschool program as defined by this report; but the state does support early childhood education in several ways. Local school districts can use a portion of their Title funding for early childhood education. The Department of Social Services oversees licensing early childhood programs and administers direct child-care assistance payments to low-income families. In 2011, the South Dakota Bright Start Home Visiting Nurses Initiative began providing services to Native American children. The program focuses on infant brain development as well as early childhood development. The Birth to Three office, within the Department of Education, oversees early childhood special education and the SD Head Start Collaboration Office.

The South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines are used in settings that serve children from birth to 5 years old and cover multiple domains including: health and physical development, creative arts, language and literacy, social studies, social-emotional development and approaches toward learning, mathematics, and science. The Guidelines are aligned with the South Dakota Content Standards for Kindergarten, which are part of the K-12 State Standards incorporating the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. As of this reporting year, a Crosswalk was created to complement the Early Learning Guidelines and serve as a resource to support the learning environment for preschool age children transitioning into Kindergarten. Like the Early Learning Guidelines this work was a collaboration between the South Dakota Department of Education, Head Start Collaboration Office, and multiple stakeholders.

In 2017, the School Administrators of South Dakota (SASD) rolled out the SASD Preschool Levels of Excellence. Based on NAEYC accreditation standards, the Levels of Excellence address ten domains of program quality. Preschool programs may use the Levels of Excellence as a self-assessment tool, or to obtain a formal Level assessed by SASD.

As evidenced across the nation, the COVID-19 pandemic brought historic challenges to South Dakota. In spite of the challenges, the early learning community continued to provide educational opportunities in a variety of alternate ways to meet family needs. Regardless of the method, the goal was to provide families with activities to support school readiness. The Department of Social Services and the Department of Health offered recommendations and guidance for programs working with young children and families.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
No Program	

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

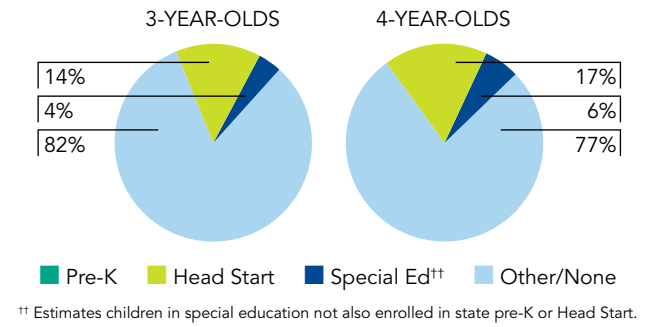
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
No Program

## SOUTH DAKOTA

### ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	0
School districts that offer state program .....	NA
Income requirement .....	NA
Minimum hours of operation .....	NA
Operating schedule.....	NA
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	1,727
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	3,829
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

# NO PROGRAM

### RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$0
Local match required? .....	NA
State Head Start spending .....	\$0
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$0

\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.  
 \*\* Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.  
 \*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

