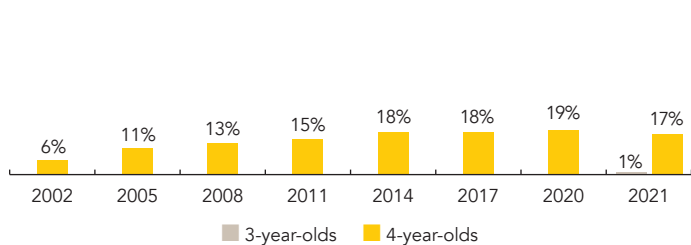
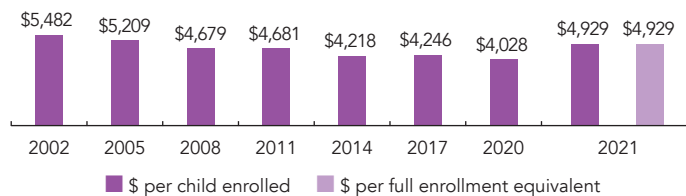


Virginia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2021 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

During the 2020-2021 school year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued, Virginia preschool enrolled 18,056 children, a decrease of 1,103 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$72,405,681 with an additional \$16,600,000 in TANF funds, up \$11,834,461 (15%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$4,929 in 2020-2021, up \$901 from 2019-2020, adjusted for inflation. Virginia met 6 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

There was a mix of in-person and remote instruction during the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but all programs were physically open in Fall 2021. Virginia did not utilize federal recovery dollars to support enrollment during the 2020-2021 school year but redistributed TANF funding to cover decreases in state funding. During the 2021-2022 school year, Virginia dedicated \$10 million in GEERS funding to support quality in early childhood programs.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia had received an unprecedented commitment in state funds and state policy revisions for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI). This increase in funds was more substantial than any before, and was intended to provide 1) an increased per pupil rate, 2) a community-provider add on of up to \$3,500 additional state dollars per child in a mixed delivery setting, 3) a pilot of 3-year-old pre-K, and 4) the ability to redistribute unused slots to divisions with waitlists. Despite cuts to state spending for the 2020-2021 school year, school divisions successfully implemented each of the changes except for increasing the per pupil rate.

The 2020-2021 school year included significant changes for early childhood governance in Virginia. As a result of legislation passed in 2020, the Commonwealth of Virginia unified early childhood oversight in 2021. As of July 2021, the Virginia Department of Education assumed oversight of all publicly-funded early childhood programs, including child care/family day homes, Head Start, and school-based preschool.

BACKGROUND

The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) began in 1995 to serve at-risk 4-year-olds not enrolled in existing preschool programs. During the 2020-2021 school year, VPI programs operated in 97% of eligible school divisions. Programs are required to operate for a minimum of three hours per day, though 96% of children attend full-day programs throughout the school year. VPI is funded by an annual legislative appropriation of state general funds and a required local match based on the local composite index. The local match is capped at half the per-pupil amount. Funding for VPI is available to school divisions where there are at-risk 4-year-olds who are not served by Head Start.

VPI eligibility has always been based on risk factors including, but not limited to: family income at or below 200% FPL, family income at or below 350% FPL for students with special needs or disabilities, homelessness, or parent(s) with limited education. A total of 15% of slots can be filled using locally determined eligibility criteria unless a locality applies and is approved for a waiver to fill more than 15% of slots using local at-risk criteria.

Beginning in 2021-2022 some VPI programs will participate in the first practice year of the state's new required Unified Measurement and Improvement System. The new unified system will use measures of teacher-child interactions and curriculum implementation to support improvement across all publicly-funded birth-to-five program and will be required for all publicly-funded preschool programs by July 2023.

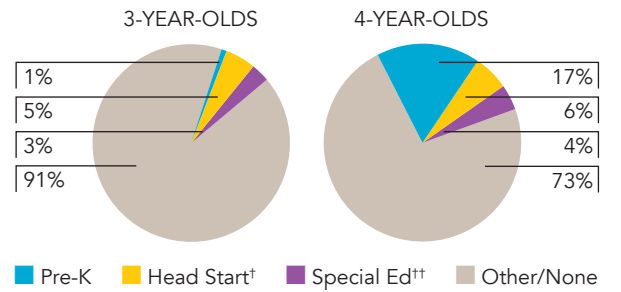
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
30	29	23	17	6

VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	18,056
School districts that offer state program	93% (school divisions)
Income requirement	200% FPL; 350% FPL for students with disabilities
Minimum hours of operation	3 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,150
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	11,153
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	VA PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (public); HSD (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, or CDA	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD (public); None (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 clock hours/school year	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more; Referrals not required	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$89,005,681
Local match required?	Yes
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,929
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$8,314

* 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

