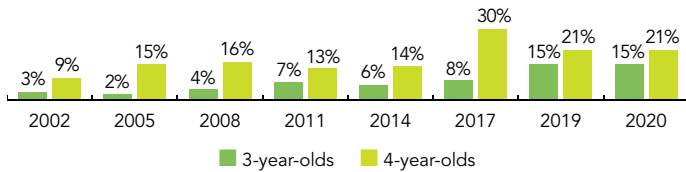
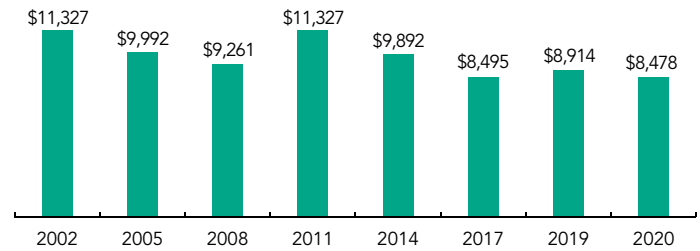


Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2020 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

Connecticut preschool programs enrolled 14,859 children in 2019-2020, a decrease of 149 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$125,973,139, down \$7,811,746 (6%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$8,478 in 2019-2020, down \$436 from 2018-2019, adjusted for inflation. Additional funding averaging of \$6,800 per child per school year, for approximately 10% of the children in these programs, is provided through the Care 4 Kids Child Care Subsidy program. Connecticut met an average of 5 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

In 2019, the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) was awarded a renewal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award for \$8.9 million to build on the work that began in 2018. The grant is intended to increase the state's ability to link families to needed services through aligning and improving coordination among existing agencies and programs; advance an infrastructure for data sharing to better support families; and design and implement a performance management approach focused on measurable child and family outcomes.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Connecticut state-funded preschool programs housed in public schools physically closed in March 2020. The state's legislative requirement to provide 180 days for school was waived for public schools for 2019-2020 school year and remote instruction was not required. Professional learning cohorts and webinars related to distance learning were provided in Spring of 2020. More robust guidance and requirements for state funded programs were put out by OEC in Fall 2020.

BACKGROUND

Connecticut serves prekindergarten children in three state-funded programs: School Readiness Program (SR), Child Day Care Contracts (CDCC), and Smart Start, all supervised by the OEC. Non-Head Start SR, CDCC, and Smart Start programs have three years to become NAEYC accredited. Programs not NAEYC accredited or Head Start approved are required to have annual ECERS ratings by state-approved raters to help prepare them for accreditation.

Connecticut has provided funding for CDCC for 40 years through a purchase-of-service contracting system. The services provided through the CDCC are supported through state funds and must operate for at least 10 hours per day. Eligibility requirements target children with household incomes below 75% SMI for state funding and/or children with household incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level for SSBG funds. CDCC programs, which must be licensed as a child care facility by the state, may operate under the contract held by an elementary or secondary school, nursery school, preschool, day care center, group child care home, family child care home, family resource center, Head Start program, or local or regional board of education.

School Readiness was founded in 1997 to expand access to early childhood programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. Financial support is available to 21 Priority School Readiness districts, as defined by legislation, and 46 Competitive School Readiness municipalities that have at least one school in which 40% or more of children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, or fall within the 50 lowest wealth-ranked towns in the state. Any family can apply for School Readiness spaces in designated Priority or Competitive municipalities; however, 60% of children enrolled in each municipality must meet the income guideline of at-or-below 75% of the SMI.

Smart Start was created during the 2014 legislative session to expand publicly funded pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds in public school settings. Funding is distributed to local or regional boards of education through a competitive grant process.

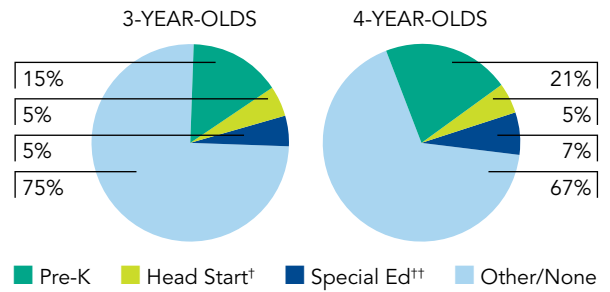
The Staff Qualifications requirement for OEC funded programs requires a Qualified Staff Member for each classroom in a program, including classrooms that do not receive funding and classrooms that serve infants and toddlers. Qualified Staff Members may enter the role with a minimum of a CDA plus 12 credits, and are required to attain a BA. Smart Start requires a BA. The OEC provides scholarships for teachers to achieve the requirement. Lead Teachers meet this requirement as follows across OEC funded programs: Smart Start programs 100%; Child Day Care Programs, 63%; School Readiness programs 81%.

CONNECTICUT STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	14,859
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	6,292
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	4,009
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	297

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

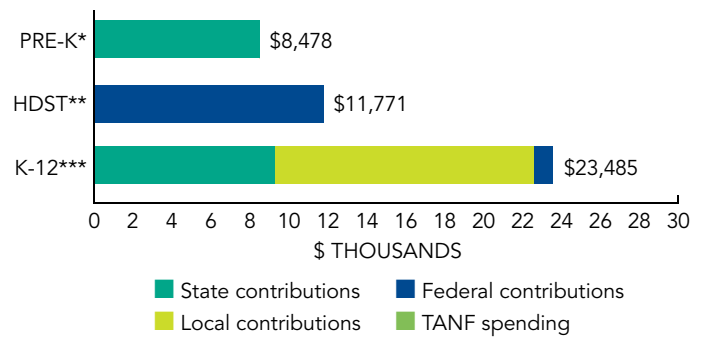


[†] Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$125,973,139
State Head Start spending	\$4,507,650
State spending per child enrolled	\$8,478
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$8,478

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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.

ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
30	8	7	14	5

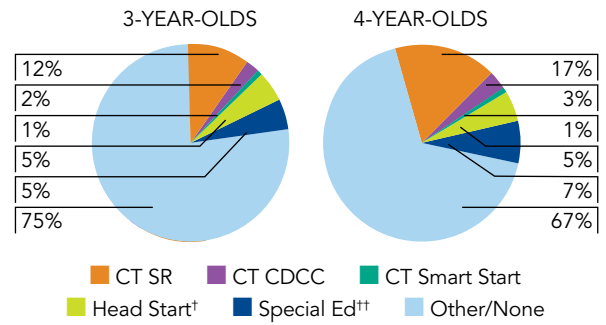
Connecticut's overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for CDCC, SR, and Smart Start is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on CDCC, the fourth on SR, and the fifth on Smart Start.

CONNECTICUT CHILD DAY CARE CONTRACTS (CDCC)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment 2,173
 School districts that offer state program ... 28% (towns/communities)
 Income requirement 75% SMI
 Minimum hours of operation 10 hours/day; 5 days/week
 Operating schedule Full calendar year

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	CT CDCC 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	CDA + 12 EC credits	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	CDA + 12 EC credits	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	PD 1% of total work hours; PD plans (some teachers and assistants)	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Immunizations, full physical exam (no vision or hearing); Referrals not required	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations (non-NAEYC Accredited and non-Head Start programs only); Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

5

RESOURCES

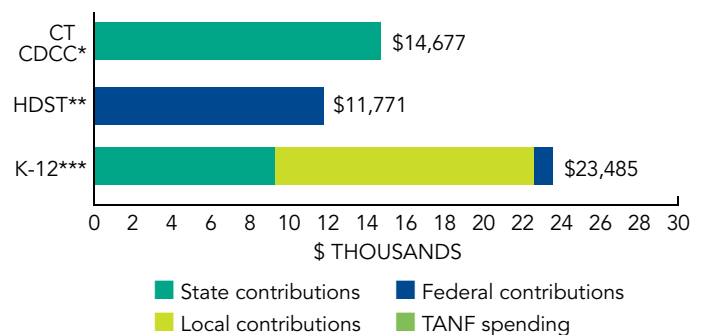
Total state pre-K spending \$31,893,230
 Local match required? No
 State spending per child enrolled \$14,677
 All reported spending per child enrolled* \$14,677

* 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

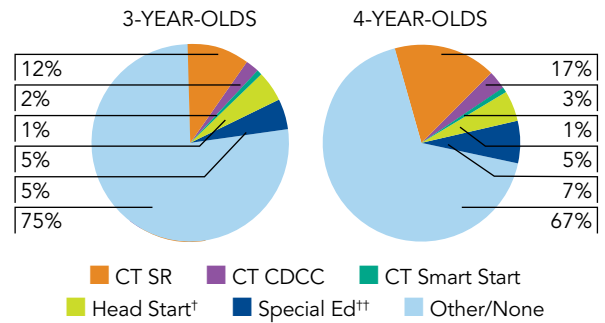


CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS (SR)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	12,025
School districts that offer state program ...	40% (towns/communities)
Income requirement	75% SMI for 60% of children enrolled in each municipality
Minimum hours of operation	2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Determined locally

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	CT SR 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	CDA + 12 EC credits	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	CDA + 12 EC credits	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	PD 1% of total work hours; PD plans (some teachers and assistants)	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 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 (non-NAEYC Accredited and non-Head Start programs only); Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

5

RESOURCES

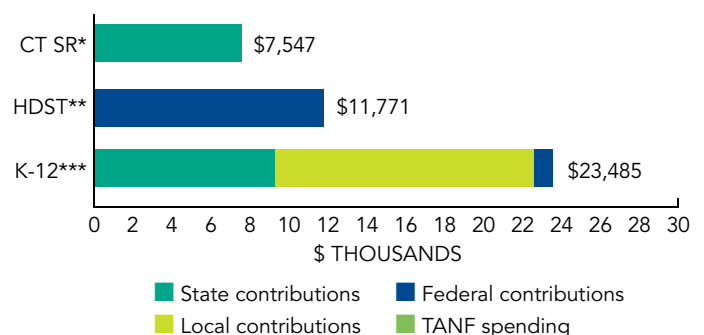
Total state pre-K spending	\$90,754,909
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$7,547
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,547

* 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

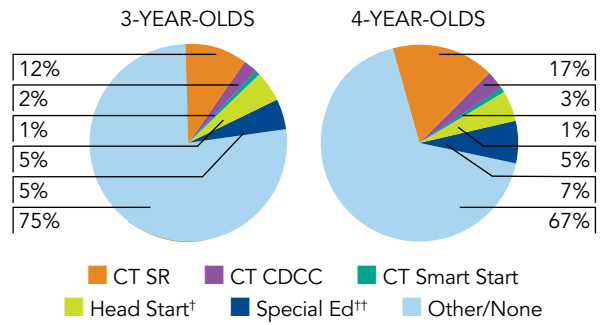


CONNECTICUT SMART START

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	661
School districts that offer state program ...	14% (towns/communities)
Income requirement	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation	6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



[†] Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	CT SMART START 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	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Pre-K, ECE	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	PD plans (teachers only)	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	18 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:9 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	None	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations (non-NAEYC Accredited and non-Head Start programs only); Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

6

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$3,325,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,030
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$5,030

* 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

