The Half-Day Child Development Program was established by the South Carolina Education Improvement Act in 1984. The program, known as 4K, seeks to improve school readiness through half-day preschool education programs for at-risk 4-year-olds. While each district in the state is required to have at least one 4K classroom, each district can determine its own eligibility requirements according to local need and based on a list of state-specified risk factors, including child history of foster care, homelessness, low family income, low parent education level, or teen parent.

School districts receive 4K funding based on the number of kindergarteners eligible for free or reduced-price lunch in their districts. Most children are served in public school settings, though districts are permitted to partner with Head Start programs to offer preschool education. Approximately 15 percent of programs use funds from other sources to provide full-day preschool services.

The state’s second early education initiative, the Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP), was created in 2006. As a result of the court decision in Abbeville County School District v. South Carolina, full-day preschool was required to be provided in the counties named in the lawsuit if those counties decided to offer 4K program. Availability for the full-day program is extended to children who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or Medicaid. Public school programs participating in CDEPP must be approved by the state Department of Education, while private child care centers must be approved by the Office of FirstSteps. Starting in the 2009-2010 program year, students with a documented developmental delay are also eligible for CDEPP. This program has been evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes in the 2009-2010 school year.

First Steps to School Readiness, a third initiative, helps provide additional services for preschool-age children. The First Steps County Partnerships distribute funds at the local level to provide a number of services for children and their families, including parenting courses, nurse-family partnership programs, and home visiting. In some communities, these funds can be used in collaboration with 4K or CDEPP funding to extend preschool services to a full-day or provide additional slots.

The first two pages of this state profile document South Carolina’s overall contributions and commitment to state-funded preschool education, including state spending and enrollment for both the Half-Day Child Development Program and the Child Development Education Pilot Program. The third page focuses exclusively on the 4K initiative and the final page presents specific details about the CDEPP initiative.
**STATE OVERVIEW**

Total state program enrollment: 24,563
Total state spending: $35,513,846
State spending per child enrolled: $1,446
All reported spending per child enrolled: $3,244

**STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Ed†</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/None</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

**SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED**

- SC PGMS*: $3,244
- HDST**: $8,459
- K-12***: $12,085

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the ‘09-‘10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

**ACCESS RANKINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESOURCES RANKINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE SPENDING</th>
<th>ALL REPORTED SPENDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SOUTH CAROLINA HALF-DAY CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (4K)**

### ACCESS

- **Total state program enrollment**: 19,383
- **School districts that offer state program**: 58%
- **Income requirement**: 185% FPL¹
- **Hours of operation**: 2.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
- **Operating schedule**: Academic year
- **Special education enrollment**: 5,644
- **Federally funded Head Start enrollment**: 11,979
- **State-funded Head Start enrollment**: 0

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>EC certification for pre-K–3</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service</td>
<td>15 clock hours</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/referral</td>
<td>Determined locally; Vision, hearing, health; and support services</td>
<td>at least 1 support service</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Snack</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Other monitoring¹</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESOURCES

- **Total state pre-K spending**: $15,813,846
- **Local match required?**: No
- **State spending per child enrolled**: $816
- **All reported spending per child enrolled**: $3,095

¹ Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

² Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

³ K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the ’09-’10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

### SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- **4K**: $3,095
- **HDST**: $8,459
- **K-12**: $12,085

**SOUTH CAROLINA AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION**

- **3-YEAR-OLDS**
  - 85%
  - 10%
  - 5%
- **4-YEAR-OLDS**
  - 9%
  - 10%
  - 1%

**1 This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.**

---

1 Effective with the 2009-2010 school year, this income requirement applies to all children in 4K.

2 Health screenings and referrals are always determined locally. Most districts offer health screenings even though this is not required in State Board of Education regulations, and has not been required in the past. Support services include four annual parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parent support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.

3 During the 2009-2010 school year, site visits were not required due to budget reductions.

4 Total state spending is the appropriated amount rather than actual spending. Federal and local spending reflects the 2008-2009 levels as the state was unable to provide federal or local spending for the 2009-2010 school year.
SOUTH CAROLINA CHILD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM (CDEPP)

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ............................................. 5,180
School districts that offer state program .................................. 42%
Income requirement ............................................................ 185% FPL
Hours of operation ............................................................... 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule ............................................................. Academic year
Special education enrollment ............................................... 5,644
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ............................. 11,979
State-funded Head Start enrollment ................................. 0

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

3-YEAR-OLDS
- 85% 4K
- 2% CDEPP
- 10% Head Start
- 3% Special Ed

4-YEAR-OLDS
- 29% 4K
- 9% CDEPP
- 10% Head Start
- 1% Special Ed
- 51% Other/None

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
--- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning standards ............................................. Comprehensive
Teacher degree ....................................................... BA (public), AA (nonpublic)
Teacher specialized training .................................... EC certification for pre-K–3
Assistant teacher degree ............................................ HSD
Teacher in-service ................................................... 15 clock hours
Maximum class size .................................................... 20 or lower
Staff-child ratio ....................................................... 1:10 or better
Screening/referral ..................................................... Vision, hearing; Vision, hearing, health; and
and support services ................................................. at least 1 support service
Meals ................................................................. Breakfast and lunch
Monitoring ......................................................... Site visits and other monitoring

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ............................................. $19,700,000
Local match required? ...................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ................................. $3,803
All reported spending per child enrolled* ..................... $3,803

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '09-'10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 Children are also eligible if they receive Medicaid services. If classes are not full, developmental delays can be considered as eligibility criteria.
2 Assistant teachers are required to complete the Early Childhood Development Credential within 12 months of hire. Districts may request waivers in certain instances.

3 Supports services include two annual parent conferences, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, and transition to kindergarten activities. Other support services are determined locally.
4 These figures include general funds ($17,300,000) and South Carolina First Steps funds ($2,400,000) used to serve children in CDEPP classrooms. State spending includes $550,000 in carryover funds from the state general fund from the prior year.