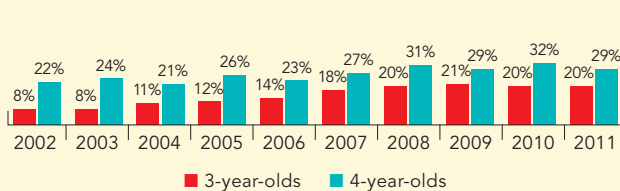
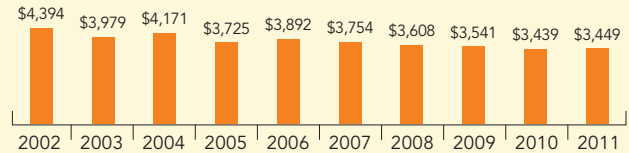


Illinois

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2011 DOLLARS)



Illinois created the Prekindergarten Program for At-Risk Children in response to calls for statewide education reform in 1985. Since 1998, funding for the program has been provided through the state Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG). The purpose of the grant is to coordinate services for at-risk infants and toddlers, support preschool education programs, and provide parenting training. ECBG is required to use at least 11 percent of its funding to serve children age 3 or younger.

In 2006, the Preschool for All initiative began in an effort to offer access to preschool education to every 3- and 4-year-old in the state. While children from all counties may participate in the program, current funding levels cannot provide services for all children whose parents want them enrolled. Competitive grants are available to a variety of grantees, including public schools, private child care and faith-based centers, Head Start programs, and family child care homes.

During the expansion phase of Preschool for All, at-risk children are the first funding priority. At-risk status is determined by program locally, based on needs identified by districts and agencies in their grant proposals. Common risk factors include low parent education levels, exposure to drug or alcohol abuse in the family, developmental delays, poverty, and a history of abuse, neglect, or family violence. The second funding priority is programs that serve families earning up to four times the federal poverty level. To date, no programs proposing to serve children in the second priority have been funded because the state has not yet had enough funding to serve all children in the first priority.

When Preschool for All was launched, the state hoped to fully fund the program by 2012, which would allow programs to use state dollars to serve children who do not meet at-risk criteria. Preschool for All is expected to serve about 190,000 children annually once fully implemented. However, a reduction in funding due to the economic condition of the state in recent years has led to a decrease in the number of children served, and the goal of reaching all children has been postponed.

Preschool for All programs are required to meet bilingual education requirements as of the 2009-2010 program year. Centers with 20 or more preschool English Language Learners (ELLs) who speak the same language will provide instruction in the home language and English, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL). Centers with 19 or fewer preschool ELLs who speak the same language will use a locally determined transitional program of instruction, which may include ESL and home language supports as needed. Pre-K teachers must meet the applicable requirement for bilingual/ESL by July 1, 2014.

In a three-year evaluation that ended in the 2009-2010 year, the Preschool for All program was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes.

During the 2010-2011 school year, a kindergarten readiness assessment stakeholder committee was convened and made recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education regarding the development and implementation of a comprehensive assessment process to be piloted in the 2012-2013 school year. A Kindergarten Individual Development Survey committee has been convened to advise during the implementation.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
15	1

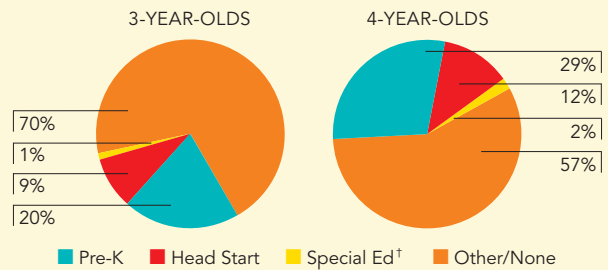
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
28	32

ILLINOIS PRESCHOOL FOR ALL

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	83,997
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement.....	None ¹
Hours of operation	At least 2.5 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	21,419
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	35,050
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EC certificate, Birth–grade 3	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	120 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 or lower		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio.....	1:10 or better	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health,	Vision, hearing, health; and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
and support services	developmental; and support services ³	at least 1 support service	
Meals	Snack ⁴	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

9

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$289,715,561
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,449
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,449

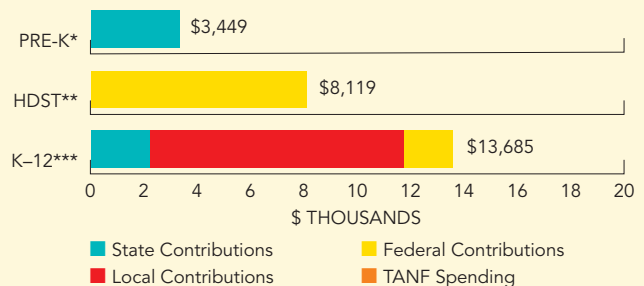
* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2010-2011 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 '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ While at risk children from lower income households are the first priority, children from lower middle-income families may be served if state funding allows.

² Full-day classes are permissible. Most programs operate 2.5 hour sessions, but 13 percent of programs operate 21 to 26 hours per week and are funded fully by the state pre-K grant.

³ Support services include parent conferences and/or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.

⁴ Full-day programs must provide lunch and snacks; half-day programs must provide snacks.