

Vermont

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2011 DOLLARS)



Established in 1987, the Vermont Early Education Initiative (EEI) funds early childhood services including, but not limited to, preschool programs. Eligibility for EEI is based on family incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level or another child risk factor, including developmental delay, limited English proficiency, social isolation, or a history of abuse or neglect. Partnerships, composed of at least one school district and one community early care and education program, may submit grant applications. EEI funding has remained relatively stable over the past few years. Since the 2009-2010 school year, the competitive grant process requires all programs to submit proposals, even those that have received EEI funding in the past.

In 2003, Vermont established a second preschool initiative that allows school districts to include 3- to 5-year-olds in their school census. Formally called Publicly Funded Prekindergarten using Average Daily Membership (PFP-ADM), the program has been known as the Vermont Prekindergarten Education-Act 62 since the 2007-2008 program year. These pre-K programs are supported by the state's Education Fund in the same way as K-12 education, based on enrollment counts in the previous years. Pre-K programs are offered at the district's discretion, and children's participation is voluntary. Approximately 80 percent of Vermont's local education agencies (LEAs) offer pre-K through a combination of school-based programs and partnerships with private family-based or center-based providers, and/or with Head Start programs. State education funds offer access to 6 to 10 hours per week of preschool education services for children ages 3 to 5. Using Act 62 funds, public schools may subcontract with other preschool providers, including faith-based centers, private child care, Head Start agencies, and family child care homes for service provision.

Initially, the state had a cap on the number of pre-K children a district could count in its enrollment census. In the spring of 2010, Vermont's Act 62 was amended so that the cap was waived for any town with a K-12 school that failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress under NCLB as of the 2010-2011 school year. In the spring of 2011, the state eliminated the pre-K cap in all towns, effective in the 2011-2012 school year. School budgets had already been set for the 2011-2012 school year, but lifting the cap may have a positive effect on enrollment for future years.

Since the 2008-2009 school year, only one teacher per center in Act 62 programs operating in nonpublic settings is required to have an ECE educator license, rather than requiring one teacher with an educator license in each preschool classroom. However, most classrooms do have a lead teacher with a BA and licensing in both public and private settings. New rules for Vermont's quality rating system, Step Ahead Recognition Systems (STARS), also went into effect this same year, requiring that programs achieve at least 4 out of 5 stars in the system or hold NAEYC accreditation. In the 2009-2010 program year, programs began assessing child progress with either the Work Sampling System or Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum.

The first two pages of Vermont's profile describe the state's overall commitment and contributions to preschool education with enrollment and state spending information for both initiatives. The next two pages provide specific details about each of Vermont's preschool initiatives with the Vermont Prekindergarten Education-Act 62 program highlighted on the third page and the Vermont Early Education Initiative profiled on the fourth page.

* Percentages served prior to 2010 are not perfectly comparable to 2010 and 2011. The latter figures use data from the 2010 Census, whereas the earlier figures are based on population estimates.

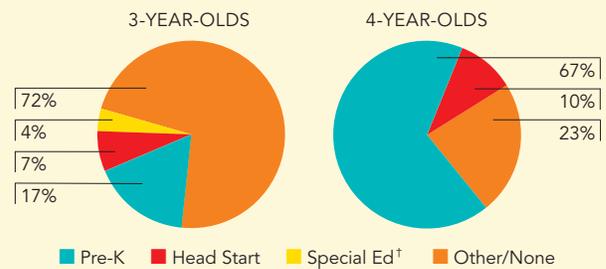
† Enrollment in the Act 62 program in the 2010-2011 year was 5,553, including an estimated 802 children who were also receiving special education services. Unduplicated enrollment figures for EEI were not available although it was reported that the majority of EEI children participating in center-based programs are reported in Act 62 figures. EEI figures are excluded from the state total to avoid duplication of enrollment.

§ Act 62 funding is based on the average of the previous two years' enrollment and so lags enrollment changes. We could not pull FY11 expenditure data and so relied on FY10 data adjusted for inflation. This underestimates expenditures potentially by as much as \$400 per child for the 2010-2011 school year.

STATE OVERVIEW

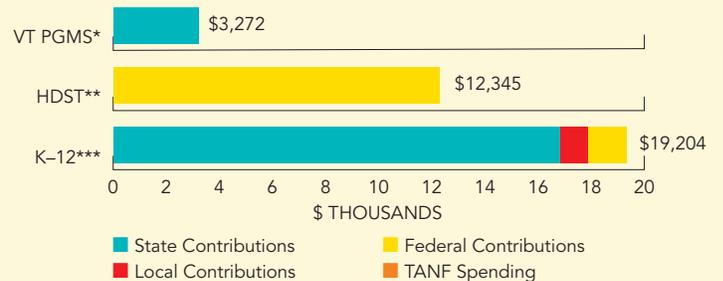
Total state program enrollment	5,553
Total state spending	\$18,167,265
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,272
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,272

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.

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 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.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
3	3

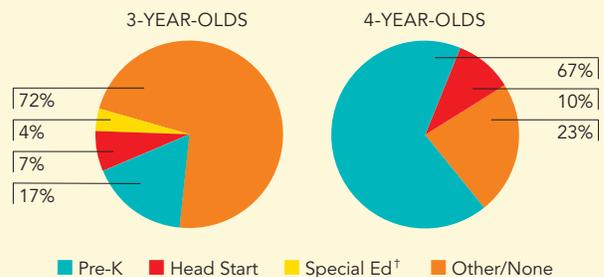
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
31	34

VERMONT PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION - ACT 62

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	5,553
School districts that offer state program	89% (communities)
Income requirement.....	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	1,081
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	1,123
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 (public); Meets child care regulations (nonpublic) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized	ECE or ECSE endorsement (public); None (nonpublic) ²	Specializing in pre-K training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA (public); HSD + CD course (nonpublic) ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service.....	9 credit hours/7 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Determined locally; and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

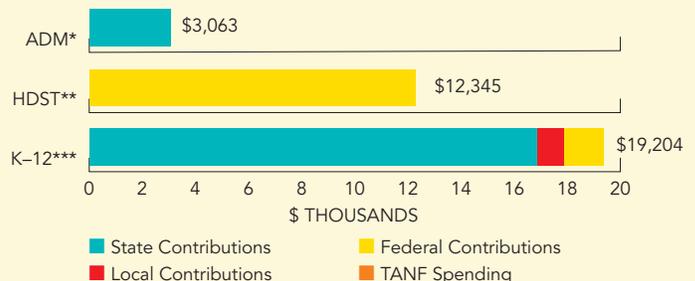
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

4

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$17,044,928 ⁵
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,063 ⁵
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$3,063

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 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.

¹ Programs are funded to operate 6-10 hours per week. Most programs operate about 3 hours/day, 6-10 hours/week, 3-4 days/week for at least 35 weeks per year.

² Teachers in public settings must have a BA with an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) birth-grade 3 or Early Childhood Special Educator (ECSE) birth-age 5 certification. Effective as of July 2008, nonpublic centers only must have one licensed teacher per center rather than one per classroom. Lead teachers in nonpublic settings must meet child care requirements of an AA, CDA, or post-secondary child care certificate. Registered child care homes require only brief supervision by a licensed teacher. The majority of lead teachers possess a BA and are certified.

³ Assistant teachers must have an AA or equivalent and must meet "highly qualified" standards in public settings. In nonpublic settings assistant teachers need to have a high school diploma and a 30-hour course in child development. Other training is not specified in Act 62 legislation and depends on the type of pre-K provider for whom they work

⁴ Screenings and referrals are determined locally; programs that are Head Start programs require various screenings. Support services include home visits or parent conferences, parent involvement activities, and transition to kindergarten activities. All other comprehensive services are determined locally.

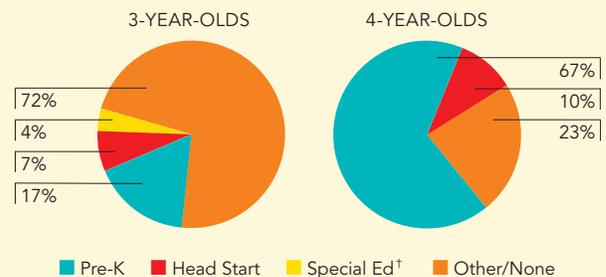
⁵ Actual funding totals for the 2010-2011 school year were not yet available. Funding totals reflect the 2009-2010 spending amounts, adjusted for inflation.

VERMONT EARLY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	771
School districts that offer state program	52% (districts) ¹
Income requirement	185% FPL ²
Hours of operation	Determined locally ³
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	1,081
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	1,123
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

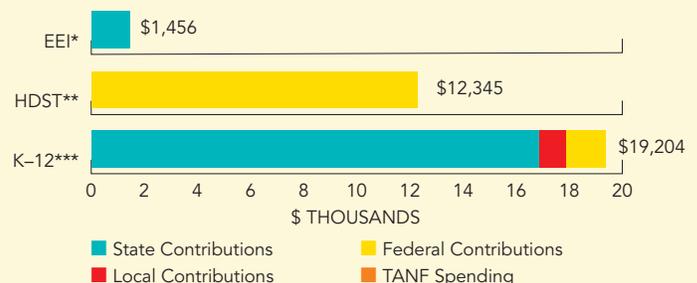
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (public); Meets child care regulations (nonpublic) ⁴	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE or ECSE (public); Meets child care regulations (nonpublic) ⁴	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA (public); HSD + 30 hr course in CD (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	9 credit hours/7 years (public); 12 clock hours (nonpublic)	At least 15 hours/year	<input 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Determined locally; and support services ⁵	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	None ⁶	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$1,122,337
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$1,456
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$1,456

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 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.

¹ EEI is a competitive grant program. A total of 41 grants were awarded in 2010-2011.

² Children may also qualify based on other risk factors such as developmental delay, risk for abuse or neglect, limited English proficiency, exposure to violence, homelessness, or geographic isolation.

³ Grantees propose their EEI service delivery model systems. Most EEI programs are half-day, 6-10 hours/week, for 2-3 days/week.

⁴ Teachers in public settings must have a BA with an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) birth-grade 3 or Early Childhood Special Educator (ECSE) birth-age 5 certification. State policy does not explicitly require teachers in nonpublic settings to hold a BA. All teachers in nonpublic settings must have a minimum of an AA in ECE, a CDA, or a post-secondary child care certificate (9 specific early education classes) with two years experience.

⁵ Screenings and referrals are up to the EEI grantee to determine. Support services include parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities, and transition to kindergarten activities. Other comprehensive services are determined locally.

⁶ State policy does not formally require monitoring for EEI, except for financial reports and a program's annual report, including child progress data.