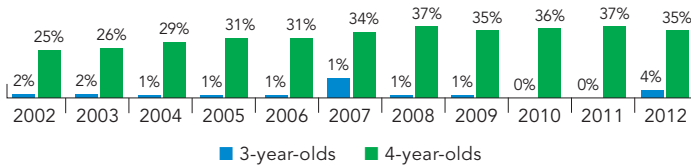


# Maryland

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2012 DOLLARS)



Maryland began providing preschool for at-risk 4-year-olds in 1980 through the Extended Elementary Education Program (EEEEP), a pilot preschool program in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County. By 2002 the program was serving 25 percent of all 4-year-olds as EEEEP eventually expanded throughout the state. As part of school finance reform legislation in 2002, local boards of education were mandated to expand prekindergarten access in public schools to all economically disadvantaged 4-year-olds by the 2007-2008 school year. As a result, state funding to school districts had significantly increased annually until 2011-2012 when state funds were decreased by approximately 9 percent. Revised prekindergarten regulations were implemented to help districts meet the kindergarten readiness needs of special education, English Language Learner (ELL), and low-income students who constituted the greatest percentage of the 28,612 students enrolled in the 2011-2012 school year.

Maryland’s 2002 school finance reform law also restructured the funding mechanism for its pre-K programs. School districts had received dedicated state funds for EEEEP to supplement general education funds in local school systems until 2007-2008 when pre-K programs were funded with state aid and local education dollars under the terms of the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act. Maryland includes costs for prekindergarten in the cost estimates of K-12 education state aid, which requires local school systems to provide access to pre-K for “four year-olds from disadvantaged families.”

In 2007, the Maryland Task Force on Universal Preschool Education recommended expansion of preschool access to include all 4-year-olds and some 3-year-olds regardless of family income. The state is implementing some recommendations from this report by permitting enrollment for 3-year-old children who are economically disadvantaged, homeless or in foster care, or at risk of school failure. In 2011-2012, total enrollment expanded for the first time since 2007-2008 with a notable increase for 3-year-olds, though the number of 4-year-olds decreased. Budgetary constraints continue to limit planned expansion to a voluntary, universal program by 2014. Despite an increase in local spending, total spending for pre-K decreased by eight percent in 2011-2012 from the year before as state and federal shares were dramatically reduced. In 2011-2012, NIEER determined that Maryland’s previously established policy permitting an average class size of 20 students rather than its application to every classroom was insufficient to retain a quality standards benchmark, resulting in Maryland meeting eight benchmarks for the 2011-2012 school year.

In addition to EEEEP, Maryland has 25 early learning centers of excellence, known as Judy Centers. The Judy Center Partnerships, located in Title 1 school districts, collaborate with selected elementary schools to provide comprehensive year-round services for children from birth to age 6. During 2011-2012, Judy Center Partnerships provided enhanced, continuous learning opportunities to nearly 12,335 young children and their families, including 3,044 children under 3 years of age.

Maryland also supports early childhood education by supplementing the federal Head Start Program with state funding. In the 2011-2012 school year, the state provided \$1.8 million to support extended-day/week services for Head Start attendees.

Maryland was one of nine states funded in the initial round of federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge in 2012.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
12	15

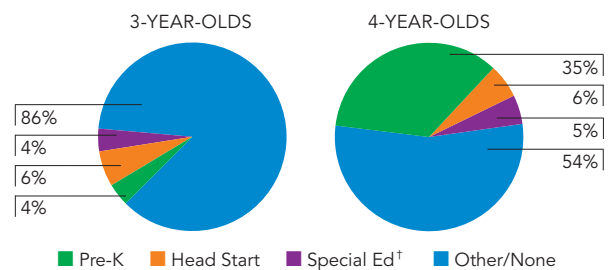
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
23	6

# MARYLAND PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	28,612 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program .....	100%
Income requirement .....	185% FPL
Hours of operation .....	2.5 hours/day (part-day) or 6.5 hours/day (school-day); 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment .....	7,788
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4 .....	9,370
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0 <sup>2</sup>

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 .....	PK-3 certification .....	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD <sup>3</sup> .....	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service.....	6 credit hours/5 years .....	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA <sup>4</sup>		
4-year-olds .....	20 <sup>5</sup>		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA <sup>4</sup>		
4-year-olds .....	1:10		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health; and support services <sup>6</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals.....	At least 1 meal <sup>7</sup>	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

## RESOURCES

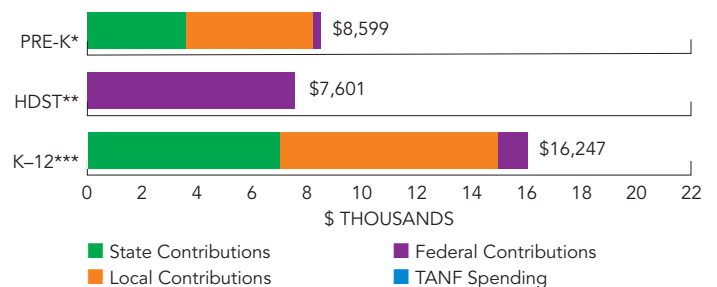
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$103,262,453 <sup>8</sup>
Local match required? .....	No <sup>8</sup>
State Head Start spending .....	\$ <sup>2</sup>
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$3,609
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$8,599

\* 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 2011-2012 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

\*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



<sup>1</sup> The enrollment figure includes 12,335 children enrolled in Judy Centers.

<sup>2</sup> Due to decreased funding, programs were limited in the 2011-2012 school year to providing extended-day/year and no new slots or quality improvements were funded by the state.

<sup>3</sup> Paraprofessionals in Title I schools must also have completed two years of college, hold an AA degree, or have a qualifying score of 455 on the ParaPro assessment.

<sup>4</sup> By policy, 3-year-olds are not eligible for state pre-K, but state child care regulations require a maximum class size average of 20 and a staff to child ratio of 1:10 for 3- and 4-year-olds.

<sup>5</sup> State policy stipulates an average of 20 students per classroom but exceptions may occur where individual classrooms exceed this ratio provided an overall program average of 20 is maintained. Given that individual classrooms may exceed 20 children, NIEER has determined that Maryland does not meet the benchmark.

<sup>6</sup> Developmental and dental screenings are locally determined. Vision and health screening and referral are the responsibility of the school health services program in conjunction with the Health Department under Title I, which applies to all children enrolled. A "body system head to toe" full physical exam is required, which is a comprehensive physical exam. In pre-K, a certificate is required proving that a blood test for lead has been done. Support services include parenting support or training, parent involvement activities (as specified by NCLB), health services for children, transition to kindergarten activities, and parent conferences or home visits.

<sup>7</sup> Children in school-day programs are offered breakfast and lunch. In part-day programs, children are offered either breakfast or lunch.

<sup>8</sup> The mandate to provide services also requires local spending as necessary to serve all eligible children.