In 1987, the Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten program was established to provide comprehensive child and family development services for 3- and 4-year-old children from low-income families in the state. Beginning in 1992, a state-federal partnership supporting a collaborative Head Start and state prekindergarten system was formalized between the Oregon Department of Education and the Region X Office of Head Start, thereby expanding early education services to additional Head Start-eligible children. The written memorandum of understanding is updated every biennium.

Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten programs receive federal and/or state funds. State funding is awarded on a biennial basis with state general fund dollars. Reversing a trend over the previous biennium when all state agencies were required to take a 9 percent reduction, state funding for the program increased $11 million for the 2011-2012 school year following a $5 million reduction in 2010-2011. The increase enabled Oregon to provide a total of 7,169 state-funded Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten slots representing an additional 1,261 children compared to the 2010-2011 school year.

Funding for the Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten program is available to a number of organizations. All federal Head Start grantees in Oregon have been awarded state prekindergarten funds through a state-wide competitive grant process to expand enrollment. Competitive state prekindergarten funds have also been awarded to non-sectarian private and public organizations that do not receive federal Head Start funding. Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten grantees include private agencies, community action agencies, public schools, government agencies, and colleges and universities. All programs are held to the federal Head Start Performance Standards and monitoring requirements.

In 2012, the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework (HSCDELF) replaced the state Early Childhood Foundations for Children Birth to Five early learning standards, which had been in place since 2007. Alignment of the HSCDELF with the Common Core State Standards for K–12 is in progress.

Program quality is monitored by the Oregon Department of Education through ongoing communication with grantees and regional Office of Head Start partners. All grantees receive on-site triennial reviews either through the Office of Head Start and/or the Oregon Department of Education including additional site visits as needed. Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten programs that receive state funding issue unique identifier numbers to all children, regardless of funding source, so that children’s progress can be followed as they enter the K–12 system.

No formal evaluation of the Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten program has been conducted to date.

Oregon was one of five states funded in the second round of federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge in 2012.
OREGON HEAD START PREKINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .................................................. 7,169
School districts that offer state program ........................................ 100%
Income requirement .......... 80% or 90% must be at or below 100% FPL1
Hours of operation ................................................................. Determined locally2
Operating schedule ............................................................... Academic year2
Special education enrollment ................................................... 6,340
Federal-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4 ....................... 6,991
State-funded Head Start enrollment ........................................... 7,1693

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY

Early learning standards ...................................................... Comprehensive
Teacher degree ......................................................... BA (public); AA (nonpublic)4
Teacher specialized training .................................... License + 15 ECE cr. (public); Specializing in pre-K
Meets CDA requirements (nonpublic)4
Assistant teacher degree ........................................... HSD or GED4
Teacher in-service .................................................... 15 clock hours/years
Maximum class size ................................................................
3-year-olds ........................................................................... 17
4-year-olds ........................................................................... 20
Staff-child ratio ..................................................................... 1:10 or better
3-year-olds ........................................................................... 2:17
4-year-olds ........................................................................... 1:10
Screening/referral ................................ Vision, hearing, health, dental, development,
and support services .................................................... Nutrition, and support services5
Meals ........................................................................ Lunch and either breakfast or snack4
Monitoring ........................................................................ Site visits and other monitoring

BENCHMARK

Comprehensive
BA
Specializing in pre-K
CDA or equivalent
At least 1 support service
At least 1/day
Site visits

DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?

☑
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ............................................ $61,000,0007
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State Head Start spending ................................................... $61,000,0007
State spending per child enrolled ...................................... $8,509
All reported spending per child enrolled* ...................... $8,509

* 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.

1 If a grantee has both federal Head Start and state pre-K funding, 90 percent of children must meet the income requirement. In addition, effective as of December 2007, 35 percent of enrollment may be children whose family incomes are between 100% and 130% FPL after priority given to children at 100 percent or below FPL.
2 Oregon defines “part-day” services as 6 hours or less per day which does not fully align with NIEER definitions for part (4 hours or less), school (4-8 hours) and extended-day (more than 8 hours) services. Programs must offer at least 3.5 hours per day for a minimum of 32 weeks per year, plus supported home visits at 1.5 hours each. Most programs operate 3.5 to 4 hrs. per day for the school year. School- and extended-day programs (more than 6 hours) are supported with other funding.
3 This number represents enrollment in the Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten program. All state-funded Head Start enrollment aspires through this program.
4 In public schools, lead teachers must have a teaching license, a BA, and 15 ECE credits. In nonpublic schools, teachers must have at least an AA or higher in ECE or a related credential with a minimum of 15 credits in ECE. The Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 required
5 Support services include parent conferences or home visits, parent education or job training, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and mental health services.
6 Programs are required to offer meals and snacks that provide at least one-third of the child’s daily nutritional needs. In addition to lunches for all children, morning programs offer breakfast to all children, and afternoon programs offer snacks to all children.
7 This figure represents the state contribution to the Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten program, which is a state-funded Head Start model. All state pre-K spending is therefore directed toward Head Start programs.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

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<th></th>
<th>PRE-K*</th>
<th>HDST**</th>
<th>K-12***</th>
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<td>$8,509</td>
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$ THOUSANDS

State Contributions
Federal Contributions
Local Contributions
TANF Spending

that by the 2011-2012 school year, all lead teachers must have at least an AA; by 2013 50 percent must have at least a BA. By 2013, all assistant teachers must have at least a CDA or be enrolled in a program to receive a CDA, AA, or BA within two years. In individual situations, some staff with CDAs working toward AA requirements employed prior to reauthorization may be permitted to teach by waiver.

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