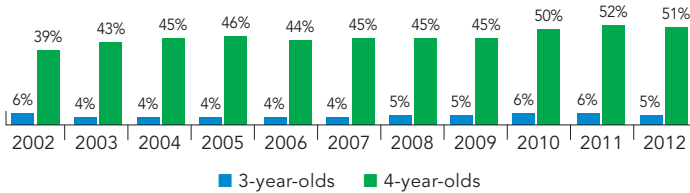


Texas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2012 DOLLARS)



In 1985, the Texas Public School Prekindergarten initiative was launched to provide at-risk 4-year-olds with half-day preschool education services. School districts are required to provide the program if they have 15 or more eligible 4-year-olds. Risk factors that determine eligibility include: qualifying for a free or reduced-price lunch, homelessness, participation in foster care, inability to speak or comprehend the English language, or a parent on active military duty or who has been injured or killed on duty. Non-eligible children are able to enroll at the discretion of the district if parents pay tuition. Some districts are able to offer the program to 3-year-olds with additional state and district funds.

Although funding is allocated directly to school districts, districts are encouraged to partner with licensed child care centers and Head Start programs to provide preschool services. Both state and local funds support the Texas Public School Prekindergarten program. This initiative is a part of the K–12 system through the Foundation School Program, which generates funding based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) to maintain part-day services.

In the 2007–2008 school year, the Texas Education Code was amended to work with the Texas School Ready Certification System (SRCS), a quality rating system meant to improve school readiness among pre-K students. The SRCS was available across various settings, including Head Start agencies, public preschool programs, and both for profit and nonprofit licensed child care centers that participated in the Texas School Ready! program and the former Prekindergarten Early Start (PKES) grant. In the 2011–2012 school year, the SRCS was rebranded and re-launched as the Kindergarten Readiness System (KRS). The revamped system streamlined data collection, was made available statewide at no cost, and had a shortened designation timeline.

The Texas Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines have been implemented statewide since 2008. Trainings are held at one of 20 Regional Education Service Centers (ESCs), which provide professional development, training, and technical assistance to early childhood education providers within that region. ESCs are staffed by a School Readiness Integration specialist or an early childhood education professional who coordinates the implementation of KRS which evaluates the effectiveness of prekindergarten, Head Start, and community-based licensed child care programs in preparing children for kindergarten. Online training vignettes and case studies are also available.

In September 2009, the restructured Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program became the Prekindergarten Early Start grant. PKES grant funds were used by eligible school districts and charter schools to prepare preschoolers to enter kindergarten. Grantees were required to engage in continual monitoring of student programs in the classroom as well as provide professional development and implement high-quality, developmentally appropriate curriculum. Programs were mandated to participate in the School Readiness Certifications Systems and develop a School Readiness Integration Plan. However, there were no funds appropriated for this initiative in the 2011–2012 program year.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
8	11

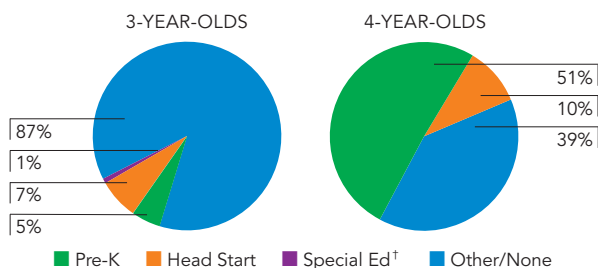
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
28	33

TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	225,037
School districts that offer state program	85%
Income requirement	185% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	3 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	22,342
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4	66,727
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); None (nonpublic) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Generalist (EC–Grade 6) Teaching Certificate (public); None (nonpublic) ²	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD (public); None (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	150 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit ³		
4-year-olds	No limit ³		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit ³		
4-year-olds	No limit ³		
Screening/referral	Health ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁵	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	None	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

2

RESOURCES

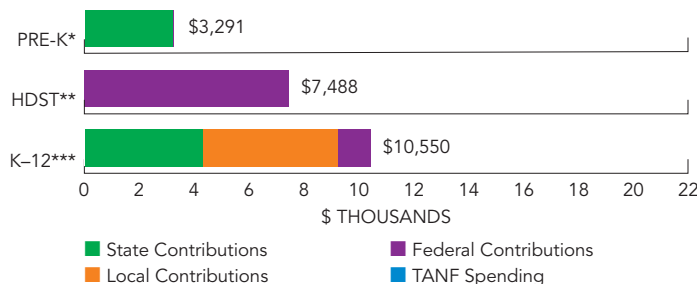
Total state pre-K spending	\$727,213,344
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,232
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,291

* 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



¹ Children may also qualify if they are homeless or have unstable housing, have a history of foster care, are eligible for TANF or other public assistance, have a parent on active military duty or who was injured or killed on active duty, or have non-English speaking family members.

² Credentials for nonpublic school teachers are overseen by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission and vary based on school accreditation. There is no set state requirement for degrees and certifications in nonpublic schools. Based on further clarification, this policy does not meet NIEER's benchmark requirement.

³ Prekindergarten classes no larger than 15 (for 3-year-olds) or 18 (for 4-year-olds) with a staff-child ratio of 1-22 are preferred but not required.

⁴ Some support services are required, but specific services are determined locally.

⁵ School districts are not required to serve meals to prekindergarten students. However, most school districts do serve either breakfast or lunch, and some offer both meals. All districts offering school-day programs provide lunch.