Since it became a state in 1848, Wisconsin's constitution has included a commitment to provide free, voluntary education for 4-year-olds. Established in 1873, the Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) program continues to operate today, although there was a suspension of state funding between 1957 and 1984. Funds for 4K are directly allocated to public schools, which then may subcontract with Head Start agencies, private child care centers, and other community-based programs. Programs providing parent support receive 60 percent of the standard per-pupil K–12 state funding amount, while part-day 4K slots receive 50 percent.

There has been a recent increase in 4K enrollment due to efforts to open new programs in districts that did not previously offer programs in addition to expanding access in existing programs. As of the 2011-2012 program year, 89 percent of the state’s school districts offer the 4K program. There is a growing interest in providing services through diverse settings as the 4K program continues to expand. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of partnerships between Head Start grantees and local school districts collaborating on 4K programs. To further encourage collaboration, the state has offered start-up grants since the 2008-2009 school year. During the 2011-2012 school year, 115 school districts have collaborated with Head Start and/or child care programs to provide preschool education services.

Wisconsin began statewide implementation of an early literacy assessment for kindergarteners in the 2011-2012 school year and is exploring options for a comprehensive kindergarten screening to be implemented through the 4K program. During the 2003-2004 year, the 4K program was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes.

The Wisconsin Head Start program is a separate state-funded initiative that offers comprehensive early childhood education for 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities or from low-income families. To enhance services and increase access, this program provides supplemental state funds to federal Head Start grantees. Participating programs are required to follow the federal Head Start Performance Standards. However, continued reductions in the amount of the state supplement have resulted in the program serving fewer children. Efforts have been made to align Head Start technical assistance and training with other professional development efforts at both the state and local levels. The state is also exploring options for a longitudinal data system that will allow for better data collection.

Formed under the Head Start Reauthorization Act, the Governor’s Advisory Council on Early Education seeks to raise awareness on preschool education and encourage collaboration among agencies. The council’s responsibilities include identifying opportunities for—and barriers to—coordination and collaboration, and it is making a significant impact on cross-sector system development. Additionally, the council develops recommendations on how to create a unified data collection system, enhance statewide professional development and career advancement, improve early learning standards, and increase enrollment in existing early childhood programs. During the 2012-2013 school year, Wisconsin was a recipient of a grant under the federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge competition. The state’s application focused on improving and building the statewide pre-K system.

The first two pages of Wisconsin’s profile give an overview of the state’s overall commitment and contributions to state-funded prekindergarten programs, including enrollment and state spending for both the Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program and the Head Start state supplement. The third page presents specific details on the 4K program, and the fourth page focuses exclusively on the Wisconsin Head Start program.
STATE OVERVIEW

Total state program enrollment .................................................... 48,011
Total state spending .......................................................... $153,864,100
State Head Start spending .................................................... $6,264,100
State spending per child enrolled ................................................ $3,205
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................................... $5,111

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPENDINGS PER CHILD</th>
<th>WI PGMS*</th>
<th>HDST**</th>
<th>K-12***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Contributions</td>
<td>$5,111</td>
<td>$7,429</td>
<td>$13,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF Spending</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Ed†</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/None</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

ACCESS RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE SPENDING</th>
<th>ALL REPORTED SPENDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.
WISCONSIN FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ........................................... 46,914
School districts that offer state program .................................. 89%
Income requirement .............................................................. None
Hours of operation ................................................................. Determined locally
Operating schedule ............................................................... Determined locally
Special education enrollment ................................................. 9,025
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4 ............................ 12,865
State-funded Head Start enrollment ...................................... 1,062

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
--- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning standards .................................................. Comprehensive
Teacher degree ................................................................. BA
Teacher specialized training .............................................. ECE Birth–age 8
ECE Birth–age 11, 4K–grade 3
Assistant teacher degree .................................................... HSD
Teacher in-service ............................................................. 6 credit hours/5 years
Maximum class size ........................................................... 20 or lower
3-year-olds ........................................................................ NA
4-year-olds ........................................................................ Determined locally
Staff-child ratio ................................................................. 1:10 or better
3-year-olds ........................................................................ NA
4-year-olds ........................................................................ Determined locally
Screening/referral ............................................................. Health and developmental;
and support services ....................................................... Vision, hearing, health;
and support services* ....................................................... at least 1 support service
Meals ................................................................................ Depends on length of program day
Monitoring ................................................................. Site visits and other monitoring

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ................................................ $147,600,000
Local match required? ........................................................ Yes, local share of school revenue
State Head Start spending ................................................ $6,264,100
State spending per child enrolled ....................................... $3,146
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......................... $5,097

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

4K* | $5,097
HDST** | $7,429
K-12*** | $13,616

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

1% 8% 60%
3% 9% 30%
1% 87%
9% 8%

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

1 Districts must provide a minimum of 437 hours of direct instruction per year, or 349.5 hours of
instruction plus 8.75 hours of parent outreach. Most programs are part-day 4-5 days per week
for an academic year, but some districts may offer the program full-day for 2-3 days per week.
2 Wisconsin did not break this figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age
drawdowns used in the Access pie chart were estimated, using proportions of federal Head
Start enrollees in each age category 2011-2012.
3 Assistant teachers in public settings can meet one of three requirements: at least two years
of higher education, an associate (or higher) degree, or meet a rigorous standard of quality
through a state or local academic assessment regardless of degree. The requirement for
assistant teachers in nonpublic settings reflects child care licensing regulations. School
districts that are Head Start grantees may require assistant teachers to have an AA and
assistant teacher license.

4 State law supports vision, hearing, and general health screenings prior to enrollment. When
4K uses a community approach with Head Start, screenings are required. Support services
include parent involvement activities, health services for children, referral to social services,
referral for special education, parent conferences and/or home visits, and access to a school
nurse, psychologist, and social worker.
5 If a school-based program operates longer than 2.5 hours, it is required to provide a meal
or snack through the school nutrition program. Programs being implemented in child care
or Head Start must follow applicable requirements.
总州预-K项目和联邦预-K项目入学比例

作为百分比的总人口

3岁学龄前儿童
4岁学龄前儿童

资源

总州预-K项目支出

本地匹配要求

联邦预-K项目支出

每名儿童支出

所有报告的每名儿童支出

* 预-K项目可能会接收来自联邦或本地来源的额外资金，这些资金未包括在本图中。
** 预-K项目每名儿童的支出为2011-2012财政年度的联邦预-K项目支出，用于3岁和4岁儿童。
*** K-12项目支出包括流动资金，以及当前运营支出。数据为2011-2012学年，除非另有说明。

1. 由于联邦预-K项目授予的特定金额无法具体分配到3岁和4岁儿童之间。因此，该数字基于前一年的预算和下一年的预算。
2. 联邦预-K项目必须符合联邦预-K项目的收入指南。自2007年10月起，前30%的收入可能超过100% FPL。
3. 本地项目按照批准的联邦赠款申请程序制定的课程表。每年的课程表都包括家长学校和夏令营。
4. 在向预-K项目提供资助的学区，预-K项目的教师必须拥有学士学位，并且，根据《联邦预-K项目重新授权法案》于2007年10月起，预-K项目的辅助教师必须拥有HSD或CDP的同等学历。

1. 密歇根州在预-K项目中未将K-12项目支出计入总项目。
2. 根据《联邦预-K项目重新授权法案》于2007年，50%的联邦配额必须由注册会计师或联邦配额。
3. 联邦配额包括：教育服务、支持服务、家长参与活动、健康服务和支持服务，以及根据联邦预-K项目的规则，为父母、育儿支持或培训、父母参与活动和健康服务。
4. 全国支出通过本项目旨在支持预-K项目。

1. 为混合年龄组，最大值为16，最小值为1.8。