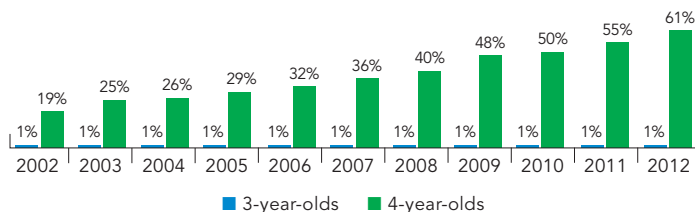


# Wisconsin

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2012 DOLLARS)



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.

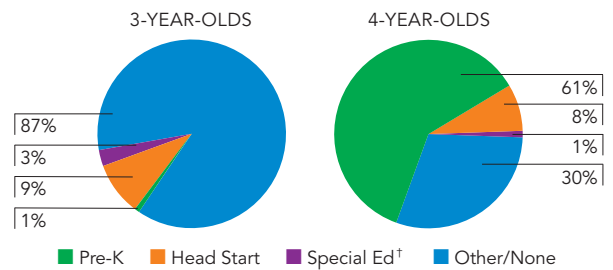
Formed under the Head Start Reauthorization Act, the Governor’s Advisory Council on Early Education seeks to raise awareness on preschool education and encourage collaboration among agencies. The council’s responsibilities include identifying opportunities for—and barriers to—coordination and collaboration, 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 child 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

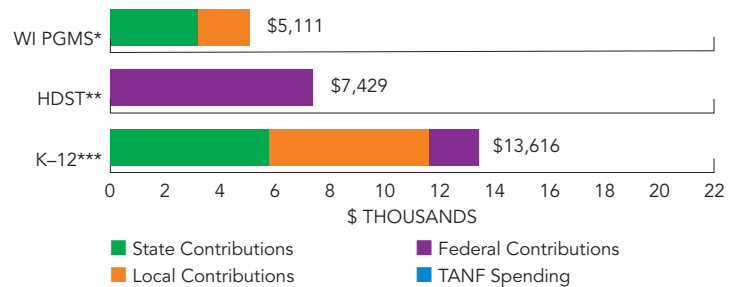
Total state program enrollment .....	48,011
Total state spending .....	\$153,864,100
State Head Start spending .....	\$6,264,100
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$3,205
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$5,111

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



<sup>†</sup> 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 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.

#### ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
4	21

#### RESOURCES RANKINGS

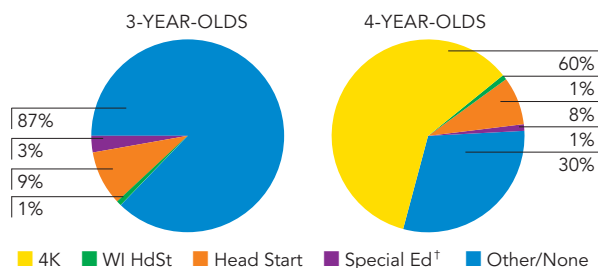
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
30	19

## 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 <sup>1</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Special education enrollment .....	9,025
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4 .....	12,865
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	1,062 <sup>2</sup>

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



<sup>†</sup> 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 .....	ECE Birth–age 8, ECE Birth–age 11, 4K–grade 3	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		
4-year-olds.....	Determined locally		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds.....	Determined locally		
Screening/referral .....	Health and developmental; and support services <sup>4</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Depends on length of program day	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

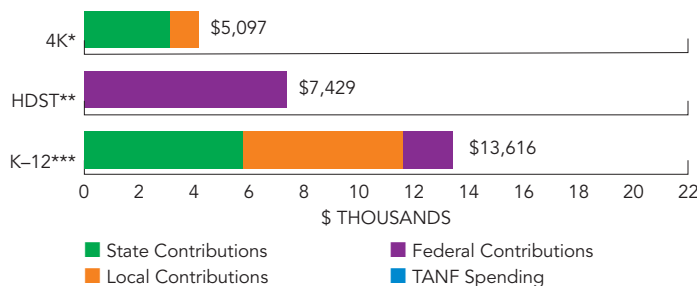
**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

**5**

### RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$147,600,000
Local match required?.....	Yes, local share of school revenue generated through property tax
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



\* 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 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

\*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Districts must provide a minimum of 437 hours of direct instruction per year, or 349.5 hours of instruction plus 87.5 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.

<sup>2</sup> Wisconsin did not break this figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age breakdowns used in the Access pie chart were estimated, using proportions of federal Head Start enrollees in each age category 2011-2012.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

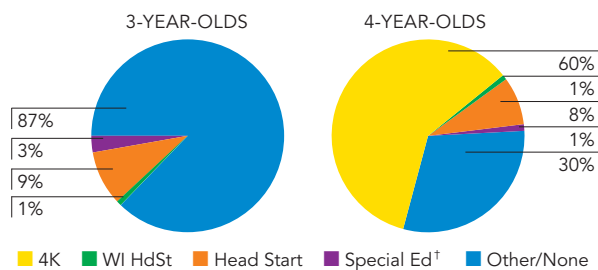
<sup>5</sup> If a school-based program operates longer than 2.5 hours, it is required to provide a meal or snack through the school nutrition program. Programs being implemented in child care or Head Start must follow applicable requirements.

## WISCONSIN HEAD START STATE SUPPLEMENT

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	1,097 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program.....	92% (federal Head Start grantees)
Income requirement .....	90% of children must be at or below 100% FPL <sup>2</sup>
Hours of operation .....	Determined locally <sup>3</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Determined locally <sup>3</sup>
Special education enrollment .....	9,025
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4 .....	12,865
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	1,062 <sup>1</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 (public); AA (nonpublic) <sup>4</sup> .....	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized.....	ECE Birth–age 8, ECE Birth–age 11 (public); AA in ECE or related field (nonpublic) <sup>4</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD <sup>4</sup> .....	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	15 clock hours .....	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....	.....	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	.....17 <sup>5</sup>		
4-year-olds .....	.....20 <sup>5</sup>		
Staff-child ratio .....	.....	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	.....2:17 <sup>5</sup>		
4-year-olds .....	.....1:10 <sup>5</sup>		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health, dental, and support services      developmental; and support services <sup>6</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Lunch and snack <sup>7</sup> .....	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Other monitoring <sup>8</sup> .....	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

**7**

### RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$6,264,100 <sup>9</sup>
Local match required? .....	No
State Head Start spending .....	\$6,264,100 <sup>9</sup>
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$5,710
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$5,710

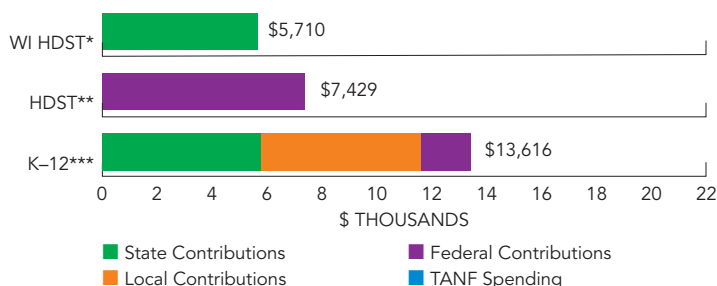
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\*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin did not break this figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age breakdowns used in the Access pie chart were estimated, using proportions of federal Head Start enrollees in each age category.

<sup>2</sup> State pre-K children must meet the federal Head Start income guidelines. Effective as of 2007, 35 percent of the enrollment may be children whose family incomes are between 100 and 130 percent FPL after priority is given to children at or below 100 percent FPL.

<sup>3</sup> Local programs determine operating schedule by the approved federal grant application model. Part-day is the most common schedule for hours per day, and summer school and full-year programs exist.

<sup>4</sup> School districts that are federal Head Start grantees may require lead teachers to have a BA and appropriate licensure. Under the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007, all lead teachers were required to have at least an AA by October 2011; by September 30, 2013, 50 percent must have at least a BA. By September 30, 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.

<sup>5</sup> For mixed-age groups, the maximum is 16 for class size and 1:8 for staff-to-child ratio.

<sup>6</sup> Support services include parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, 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 other support services in accordance with federal Head Start performance standards.

<sup>7</sup> The federal Head Start Performance Standards require that part-day programs provide children with at least one-third of their daily nutritional needs, and full-day programs provide one-half to two-thirds of daily nutritional needs, depending on the length of the program day.

<sup>8</sup> The state itself does not conduct monitoring of these programs though grantees are monitored by the federal Head Start system. Information such as grant applications, budget reports, sections of the federal application, and submission of the Head Start PIR are included.

<sup>9</sup> All spending through this initiative is directed toward Head Start programs.