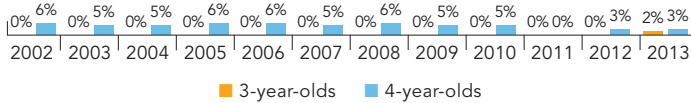
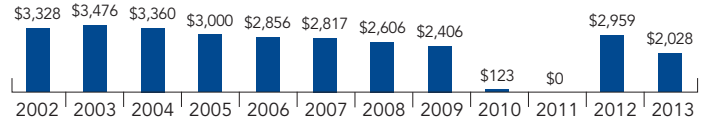


Arizona

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED* (2013 DOLLARS)



Arizona began funding preschool education programs in 1991. Supplemental services for preschool, first- through third-grade education, and full-day kindergarten were supported by The Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) from 1996 to 2010. Children from families with an income less than or at 185 percent of the federal poverty level were qualified for ECBG-funded programs.

With the requirement that some of the funding was passed through to either private child care centers or faith-based programs, the ECBG prekindergarten funds were distributed to school districts. Preschool programs that received ECBG funding had to be approved by an organization permitted by the state, such as the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). ECBG funds were frozen in fiscal year 2010, due to budget restraints, and then revoked. No financial support was offered for this program in the 2010-2011 or 2011-2012 school years.

The Early Childhood Development and Health Board, known as First Things First (FTF), was established by the voters of the state of Arizona in 2006. FTF oversees two scholarship programs which were merged in the 2012-2013 school year. Quality First Scholarships are part of the incentive package for programs participating in the QRIS, Quality First. Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Participants were required to participate in Quality First during this school year. As a result, the two scholarship programs merged and more pre-kindergarten children are being funded in programs that meet the quality tier levels. The current standard is a minimum quality rating as assessed by Quality First.

An agreement between FTF and the local United Way provides services related to scholarship processing and payment. FTF is administered through Regional Partnership Councils, including 21 geographically defined Councils and 10 tribal Councils that span the entire state. Private child care, public schools, Head Start settings, tribal governments, and faith-based centers are qualified to collect grant funds. Each program supported through FTF Prekindergarten Scholarships must attain a 3-star or higher rating on the FTF Quality First Rating Scale, beginning in the 2013-2014 program years.

Arizona is working to establish a kindergarten developmental inventory instrument that will be used at kindergarten entry and will potentially implement this by the 2016-2017 school year.

* The 2011-2012 school year was the first year data were collected on the First Things First initiative. Previous years' data are for the Early Childhood Block Grant initiative.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
38	19

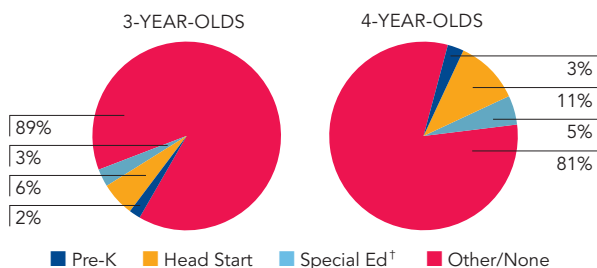
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
39	40

FIRST THINGS FIRST PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND QUALITY FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	6,516
School districts that offer state program	74% (Regional Partnership Councils) ¹
Income requirement	200% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	Determined locally ²
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,186
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	15,141
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	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	12 credits in ECE or CDA for 25% of teachers ³	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	12 credits in ECE or CDA for 25% of teachers ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	18 clock hours/year	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	18		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:9		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Immunizations; and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depends on length of program day ⁵	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

5

RESOURCES

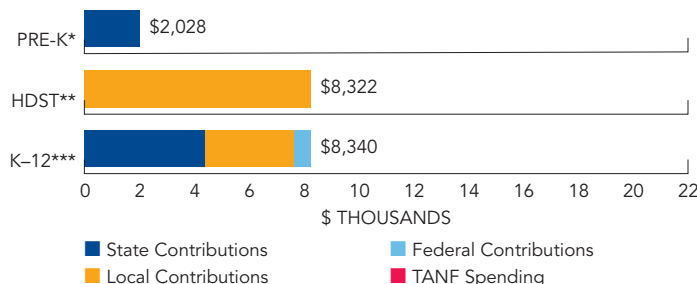
Total state pre-K spending	\$13,211,842
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,028
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,028

* 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 2012-2013 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '12-'13 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ FTF Regional Partnership Councils include 21 geographically defined Councils and 10 tribal Councils, which span the entire state. The 21 geographically defined Councils are largely constructed along county lines, except for major metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Tucson, which have eight and three Councils respectively. The count of 22 also includes three of 10 tribal Regional Partnership Councils, defined by tribal land (reservation) boundaries, and include separate child counts from the geographic county in which the tribal land is located.

² The most common operating schedule in public school settings is a part-day schedule, which is a minimum of 3 hours per day (no less than 12 hours per week) and no less than 3 days per week on a school year calendar. The most common operating schedule in nonpublic school settings is school- or extended-day for a full calendar year.

³ In the early care and education program, both public and nonpublic settings must meet minimum standards for the program as a whole: for participants in Pre-Kindergarten and Quality First scholarship programs, 25% of Lead Teachers must have at least 12 college

credit hours in early childhood or related fields OR a certificate of completion in ECE or child development from a community college OR a CDA. Certification was not required in the 2012-2013 school year, though the Arizona Department of Education requires lead teachers in all public school early childhood programs to be certified in Early Childhood Education (B-3rd) as of July 2012. The merge of the two different pre-kindergarten funding opportunities incorporated one set of standards for both. As a result, this no longer meets NIEER's requirement for this benchmark.

⁴ Support services include parent involvement activities, transition to kindergarten activities, and parent conferences and/or home visits.

⁵ Programs are required to follow state child care licensing regulations. Children enrolled two to four hours receive one or more snacks; children enrolled four to eight hours receive one or more snacks and a meal; children enrolled nine or more hours receive two snacks and at least one meal.