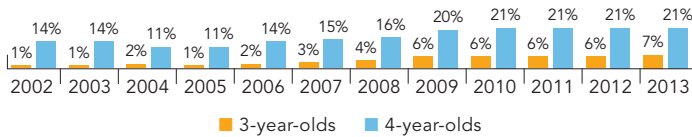
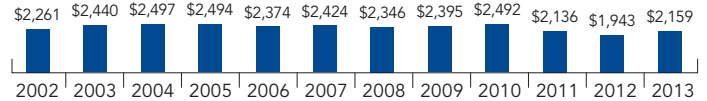


Colorado

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2013 DOLLARS)



The Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) was launched in 1988 to finance preschool services for at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds in an effort to control dropout rates, reduce dependence on public assistance, and help children achieve their full potential. Risk factors for determining eligibility are defined in state statute, including qualifications for free or reduced-price meals, being in foster care, a family history of abuse or neglect, low parental education levels, homelessness, having a teen parent, or parental substance abuse, as well as locally determined risk factors. Three-year-olds must have at minimum three risk factors to enroll in CPP, while 4-year-olds must have at least one.

A small number of CPP openings were authorized by the Legislature in 1995 to fund children to participate in full-day kindergarten. Between 2005 and 2008 the program was renamed the Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten Program (CPKP) and was allowed to use 15 percent of these openings for kindergarten. The program was once again named the Colorado Preschool Program during the 2008 legislative session, when it was decided that the kindergarten slots would be eliminated. The last noteworthy expansion occurred in 2008.

Funding for CPP is determined through the Colorado school finance formula, with preschoolers generating half the amount of grants as students in grades 1 through 12. These funds are distributed directly to local school districts, though they may subcontract with Head Start, private child care centers, or other non-faith-based community partners or public agencies. The Charter School Institute also participates in the Colorado Preschool Program as a direct recipient of funds. Funding is awarded competitively, with priority given to districts not currently participating in CPP. Additional funding for CPP, such as federal Head Start monies, may be used to extend the program day, supplement services, or provide wrap-around care. State funding for CPP increased by approximately \$5M in 2012-2013; however, overall funding for CPP remained static compared to the previous year and significantly below its 2009-2010 level.

All Colorado preschool programs may participate in Results Matter, the state's system for collecting and reporting child outcomes and family information from birth to age 5, which is open to all in early childhood programs. Results Matter serves as an ongoing evaluation that allows stakeholders to compare the progress of children in CPP with other assessed populations. During the 2012-2013 school year approximately 47,000 children were included in Results Matter, 19,538 of whom participated in CPP. CPP was evaluated for program impact/child outcomes in the 2011-2012 school year using data from Results Matter and analysis of additional longitudinal data collected by the Colorado Department of Education.

Originally established in 2007, the Colorado Building Blocks for Early Development and Learning was revised in 2011, to align with the Colorado P-12 Academic Standards. In January 2013, Building Blocks was replaced by the Colorado Early Learning & Development Guidelines. The Guidelines address all developmental and academic fields, are inclusive of all children ages birth to 8 years, and align with the Colorado P-12 Academic Standards which have incorporated the Common Core State Standards.

Formed in 2010, the Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) continues its efforts to guarantee and advance a comprehensive service delivery system for children from birth to age 8, using data to improve alignment, decision-making, and coordination among federally funded and state-funded services and programs.

In 2012, Colorado was one of five states funded in the second round of federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
22	10

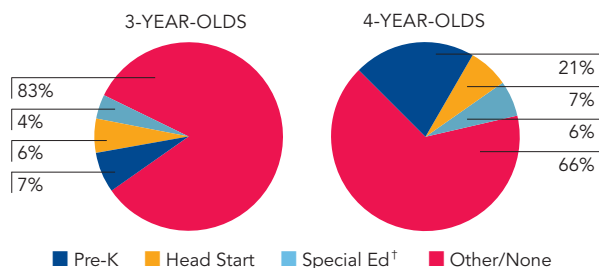
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
37	32

COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	19,538 ¹
School districts that offer state program	96%
Income requirement	185% FPL ²
Hours of operation	2.5 hours/day, 4 days/week ³
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	7,685
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,093
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	CDA ⁴	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	Meets CDA requirements	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None ⁵	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours/year	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size.....	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds16		
4-year-olds16		
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds1:8		
4-year-olds1:8		
Screening/referral	Health, developmental;	Vision, hearing, health; and	<input type="checkbox"/>
and support services	and support services ⁶	at least 1 support service	
Meals	Depends on length of program day ⁷	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

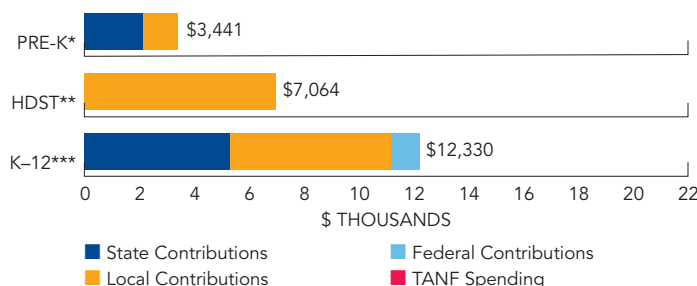
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$42,181,888 ⁸
Local match required?	Yes
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,159
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$3,441

* 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 Under the early childhood councils, three school districts have waivers to serve children younger than age three in CPP. Children must turn three by October 1 in order to be funded by the state, but districts can choose earlier eligibility dates. CPP is authorized to fund 20,160 half-day slots, and statute allows CPP to use a maximum of 5 percent of those slots to serve children in a full-day program through two slots.
² In some areas of the state, where the cost of living is extremely high, district advisory councils have increased the eligibility to 200% or 225% FPL.
³ Programs must operate the equivalent of 2.5 hours per day, 4 days per week. Programs may extend hours and days beyond the minimum requirement of 10 hours per week. The program is funded for 5 days per week, with the fifth day funded for home visits, teacher planning time, completing child assessments, or staff training.
⁴ Teachers must have coursework in child development, developmentally appropriate practices, understanding parent partnerships, and multicultural education. They must be supervised by someone with at least a BA in ECE or Child Development.

⁵ There is no specific category for assistant teacher; staff aides must meet Colorado Department of Human Services Licensing Requirements.
⁶ Support services include parent education or job training, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, nutrition information, referral for social services, transition to kindergarten activities, parent conferences and/or home visits, information about and referral for immunizations and dental care.
⁷ Meals and nutritious snacks must be served at suitable intervals. Children who are in the program for more than 4 hours per day must be offered a meal that meets at least one-third of their daily nutritional needs.
⁸ This figure does not include contributions from local sources, which are required by the school finance formula.