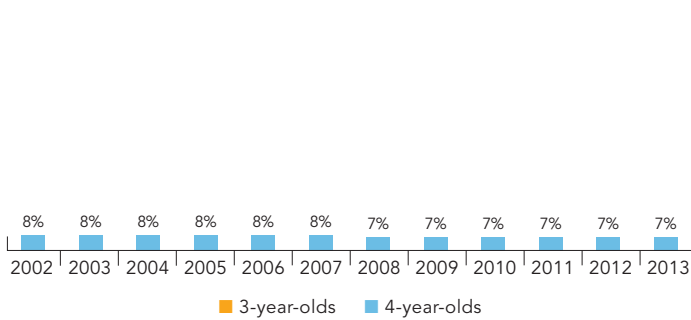
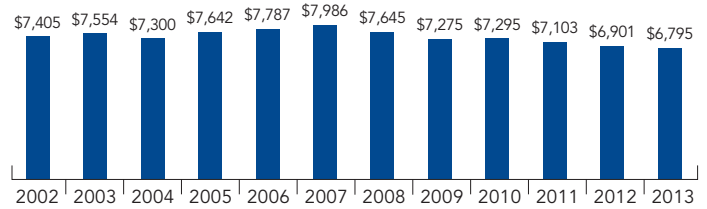


# Delaware

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2013 DOLLARS)



Founded in 1994, Delaware’s Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) is designed to provide comprehensive early childhood services for 4-year-olds who are income-eligible for Head Start. ECAP is modeled on the federal Head Start program and requires participating programs to follow Head Start Performance Standards. Ninety percent of enrolled children must live in families whose income is at or below 100 percent FPL, though 10 percent of available slots are reserved for children with disabilities. According to the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007, up to 35 percent of programs’ funded enrollment may be children living in households with incomes at 100 to 130 percent FPL.

ECAP grantees are determined based on Community Needs Assessment Data. Program funding is available to for-profit child care, Head Start agencies, public schools, and private and faith-based centers. State funding is set to increase for the 2013-2014 school year. Program funding has been stable for several years, but per-child funding has declined due to inflation.

The state’s early learning standards, Delaware Early Learning Foundations: Preschool, were established in 2003 and reviewed in 2010, for alignment with K-12 performance indicators and the Common Core standards. ECAP uses Teaching Strategies GOLD, a web-based assessment, to follow the progress of enrolled children. ECAP was evaluated for program impact/child outcomes in the 2008 Child Outcomes Study.

Delaware has a quality rating improvement system for early childhood programs, known as Delaware Stars. The Delaware Stars quality rating indicators have been aligned with the Head Start Performance Standards. As of December 2012, all ECAP programs must participate in the Delaware Stars QRIS, with a rating of 5. Programs that are ECAP only, without mixed funding, participate in an alternate pathway to QRIS, with evidence of successful monitoring, and enter at Star 4. ECAP programs with varied funding sources enter the QRIS with a rating of 1. Delaware was awarded a Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant, which includes the goal of all ECAP programs attaining 5 stars.

The Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood, the state’s cross-sector early childhood professional development system, allied with the state’s K-12 professional development standards, offers high quality expert assistance to ECAP programs.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
33	None Served

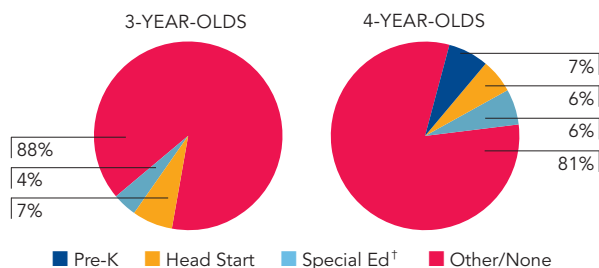
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
8	14

## DELAWARE EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECAP)

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	843
School districts that offer state program .....	100% (counties)
Income requirement .....	100% FPL <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation .....	3.5 or more hours/day, 5 days/week <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	1,438
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	1,438
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	843 <sup>3</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 .....	AA <sup>4</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	AA in ECE or a related field <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 .....	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 .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	20		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	1:10		
Screening/referral and support services .....	Vision, hearing, health, psychological/behavioral, dental, developmental; and support services <sup>5</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	At least one meal and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

8

### RESOURCES

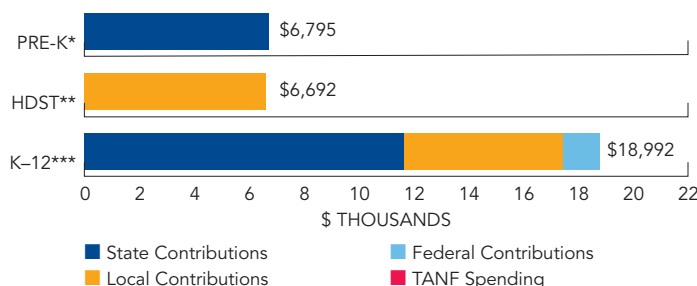
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$5,727,800
Local match required? .....	No
State Head Start spending .....	\$5,727,800 <sup>6</sup>
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$6,795
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$6,795

\* 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



<sup>1</sup> State pre-K children must meet the federal Head Start income guidelines. Effective as of 2007, 35 percent of enrollment may be children whose family incomes are between 100 and 130 percent FPL after priority is given to children at 100 percent or below FPL.

<sup>2</sup> If programs choose to operate longer than 3.5 hours per day, they must fund the additional portion themselves. Some programs align with the school year.

<sup>3</sup> This number represents ECAP enrollment. All state-funded Head Start enrollment is through ECAP.

<sup>4</sup> ECAP follows the Head Start Performance Standards. 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 earned at least a BA. By September 30, 2013, all assistant teachers must have earned at least a CDA or be enrolled in a program to receive a CDA, AA, or BA within two years. Teachers in nonpublic programs must meet Delaware Office of Child Care Licensing requirements of nine college credits in EC, a CDA, or the state-approved courses Training Early Care and Education I and II. Public school assistant teachers must successfully complete the Praxis test.

<sup>5</sup> Support services include parent conferences and/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 mental health consultation.

<sup>6</sup> ECAP is a state-funded Head Start model. All state pre-K spending is therefore directed toward Head Start programs.