While Idaho does not provide a state-funded pre-K program, the state supports early childhood education through several avenues. The state channels $1.5 million in TANF funds into a Head Start supplement, to provide additional slots in Head Start and Early Head Start. The funds typically provide about 200 additional slots, though that can change, based on how many of the slots are in the more expensive Early Head Start program. A bill proposing a three-year pilot pre-K program in five preschools was introduced in Idaho during the 2013-2014 year.

Idaho provides guidance on early learning through the Early Learning eGuidelines, revised and updated in 2013. The Guidelines cover: approaches to learning and cognitive development; motor development, physical well-being and health; social-emotional development; general knowledge; communication, language, and literacy. The document provides guidance on each domain for age ranges of children from birth to kindergarten; and through third grade for approaches to learning and cognitive development, and social and emotional development. The eGuidelines have been cross-walked with both the Idaho Core Standards and the Head Start Child Outcome Framework.

The Idaho STARS quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for child care providers is a multi-agency collaboration, which also assists child care providers in increasing their knowledge and skills in early care and education through a Professional Development System (PDS). Idaho STARS is aligned with the goals of the Early Learning Guidelines. Participation in the QRIS is voluntary.

A report from the U.S. Department of Education indicate that at least 2,129 general education students were enrolled in district-operated preschool programs in the 2011-2012 school year.
ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .........................................................0
School districts that offer state program ..............................................NA
Income requirement ........................................................................ NA
Hours of operation ..........................................................................NA
Operating schedule .........................................................................NA
Special education enrollment .......................................................1,950
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .........................................2,817
State-funded Head Start enrollment ................................................0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .................................................................$0
Local match required? ................................................................. NA
State spending per child enrolled .....................................................$0
All reported spending per child enrolled* .........................................$0

* 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.