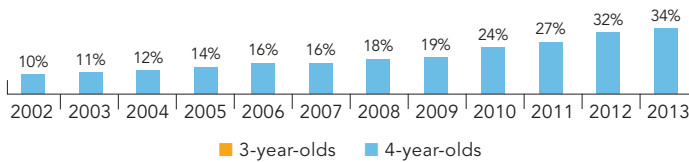


# Maine

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2013 DOLLARS)



In 1983, Maine established its Two-Year Kindergarten initiative in an effort to support public preschool education, by allocating resources to local districts through the school funding formula. State-funded programs for 4-year-olds have been separately defined as the Public Preschool Program (PPP) since 2007, and remain funded through Maine’s school funding formula, with distributions going directly to school districts.

While school districts are not required to offer a public preschool program, those choosing to provide one must obtain prior approval from the state Department of Education, which includes a joint planning process that involves local providers. To receive a full per-pupil financial allocation, districts must provide a minimum of 10 hours per week of instructional programming. The state also makes available an additional “weighted” subsidy to supplement the regular per-pupil allotment for pre-K through second grade.

Sixty-three percent of Maine’s schools that enroll children in kindergarten during the 2012-2013 school year also chose to offer public preschool education programs, an increase from the previous year. The majority of public preschool programs are housed in public schools, although many districts have partnered with community-based child care programs or Head Start agencies to offer services. Many programs that were initially offered in community locations have shifted into public school settings as space has become available, in an effort to minimize transitions experienced by children and families. All lead teachers, regardless of setting, are required to hold a BA degree and teaching certificate with an Early Childhood endorsement from the Department of Education.

PPP enrollment continued to increase as additional state, Title I, and local funds were blended by districts during the 2012-2013 school year. Nine elementary schools started pre-K programs in 2012-2013, contributing to an increased state-wide enrollment of 5 percent. The program continues to use the Public Pre-K Collaboration Coach model to support partnerships among public schools, Head Start agencies, and child care programs, as part of a diverse delivery system.

In addition to funding the Public Preschool Program, Maine historically supplemented the federal Head Start program with state grants. These supplemental funds were used to extend the amount of time children received services, enhance services provided by the federal program, and provide supplemental services beyond those funded by federal dollars. In the 2012-2013 school year, the state provided funds only to Early Head Start programs for children ages six weeks to 36 months to receive services.

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

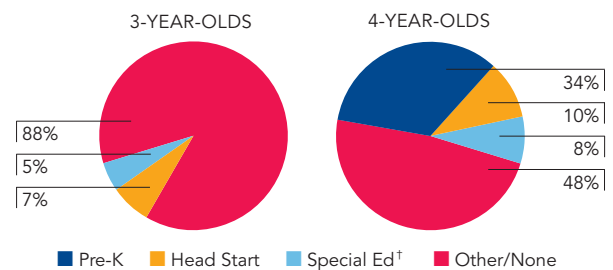
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
34	21

# MAINE PUBLIC PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	5,088
School districts that offer state program .....	63% (public elementary schools)
Income requirement .....	None
Hours of operation .....	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	2,270
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	2,269
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	0 <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, with or without SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	Ed Tech II (60 credit hours)	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" 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 .....	No limit		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	1:15 <sup>3</sup>		
Screening/referral and support services .....	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services <sup>4</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	None <sup>5</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

6

## RESOURCES

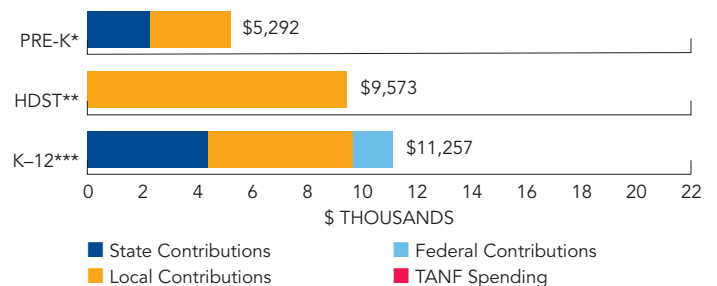
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$11,680,725 <sup>6</sup>
Local match required? .....	Yes, tied to school formula
State Head Start spending .....	\$0 <sup>2</sup>
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$2,296
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$5,292

\* 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> Programs must operate a minimum of 10 hours per week to receive a per-pupil subsidy through the school funding formula. Some programs provide a full school day, 5-day program; some provide a part-day program and operate four half days with the fifth day used for home visits and teacher planning.

<sup>2</sup> In the 2012-2013 school year, all additional Head Start funds provided by the state of Maine were used to serve children ages 6 weeks to 36 months in Early Head Start programs.

<sup>3</sup> If a district partners with a program holding a DHHS child care program license, ratios of 1:10 must be met.

<sup>4</sup> A minimum of one annual parent conference or home visit is required. Programs are required to provide some comprehensive services, but specific services are determined locally.

<sup>5</sup> While not required, most programs offer a snack and others offer breakfast and/or lunch. Programs that partner with Head Start must follow CACFP and Head Start requirements for meals. Schools providing meals meet USDA school meal guidelines.

<sup>6</sup> In addition to Public Preschool Program funding, weighted funds are available for pre-K through grade 2. Included in this total is portion of this funding estimated to serve 4-year-olds.