Minnesota offers supplemental financial support to both Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) programs in an effort to improve access for children from birth to age 5. Any organization that obtains federal Head Start backing is qualified for financial support. The agencies may work in a joint venture with private child care centers, public schools, and family child care homes, while following the federal Head Start Performance Standards. Additionally, the state’s early learning standards, the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress, guide support and training for all program staff members and on technical assistance. Minnesota was the recipient of a Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant in the 2009-2010 school year.

The School Readiness Program, a second state initiative, provides services through subcontracted charter schools, community-based organizations, and school districts. The program focuses on improving kindergarten readiness through a number of approaches, including services for children with disabilities, home visits, and preschool education programs. Individual school districts decide which services to offer. Programs must have research-based program content, support parent involvement, collaborate with other local programs, and provide children with appropriate screenings and referrals as needed. Financial support data and program enrollment for center-based preschool education services are not tracked at the state level, hence the exclusion of the School Readiness Program in this profile.

Minnesota was unable to provide updated information on the 2012-2013 school year, so 2011-2012 school year information is used throughout this profile, as there were not substantial changes in program funding and enrollment during that time. Funding was not adjusted for inflation.
MINNESOTA HEAD START

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .........................................................1,813
School districts that offer state program ........................................100% (counties)
Income requirement .................................................................At least 90% of children must be
at or below 100% FPL or receiving TANF1
Hours of operation .................................................................At least 3.5 hours/day, 4 days/week2
Operating schedule ..............................................................At least 32 weeks/year2
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..............................8,700
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .............9,422
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......................0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY                                      STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT           BENCHMARK                                      DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?

Early learning standards ..............................................Comprehensive ......................Comprehensive
Teacher degree .........................................................BA (public); AA (nonpublic)3 ..............BA
Teacher specialized training .........................AA in ECE or equivalent3 ......................Specializing in pre-K
Assistant teacher degree .................................Meets child care regulations4 ..............CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service .....................................................15 clock hours/year ..............At least 15 hours/year

Maximum class size .........................................................20 or lower
3-year-olds .................................................................17
4-year-olds .................................................................20

Staff-child ratio ............................................................1:10 or better
3-year-olds .................................................................2:17
4-year-olds .................................................................1:10

Screening/referral ..............................................Vision, hearing, health; and Vision, hearing; and
and support services developmental; and support services5 at least 1 support service
Meals .................................................................Lunch and/or breakfast6 ..............At least 1/day
Monitoring .................................................................Site visits and other monitoring ...........Site visits

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....................................................$13,764,2967
Local match required? .........................................................No
State Head Start spending ....................................................$13,764,2967
State spending per child enrolled .................................$7,592
All reported spending per child enrolled* ..................$7,592

1 State pre-K children must meet the federal Head Start income guidelines. Effective December 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.
2 Schedules are determined locally, but must be in compliance with federal Head Start regulations. Programs must operate at least 3.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, and 32 weeks per year.
3 Under the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007, all head teachers were required to have at least an AA by October 31, 2011; by September 30, 2013, 52 percent must have at least a BA. By September 30, 2013, all assistant teachers must have at least a CDA or be enrolled in a program to receive a CDA, AA, or BA within two years. In a public school, teacher union rules require that teachers have at least a BA.
4 This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

1% 8% 6% 85%
Pre-K Head Start Special Ed Other/None

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

3-YEAR-OLDS

4-YEAR-OLDS

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PRE-K $7,592
HDST** $7,851
K-12*** $14,947

$ THOUSANDS

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22

State Contributions Federal Contributions Local Contributions TANF Spending

1 Federal Head Start Performance Standards require half-day programs to provide children with at least one-third of their daily nutritional needs (breakfast or lunch), and full-day programs to provide two meals or two-thirds of their daily nutritional needs.
2 All spending through this initiative is directed toward Head Start programs.

* 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.

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