Operating as a single school district, Puerto Rico does not formally support a state-funded prekindergarten program as defined in this report; however, the territory supports several early learning initiatives.

Education in Puerto Rico consists of seven levels, with Level 1 optional nursery school for children under age 4, comprising Early Head Start, Head Start and prekindergarten programs. Level 2 compulsory preschool, commonly known as kindergarten, is mandatory for 5-year-olds. The Department of Education of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Education Council, oversee elementary and secondary public education, monitor all academic standards, and issue licenses to educational institutions wishing to operate in Puerto Rico. Programs for preschool-age children are administered by the Administration for Integral Child Care and Development (ACUDEN) with the Department of Education having authority over early childhood special education.

ACUDEN serves as the administrative agency supporting Puerto Rico’s 16-member Early Childhood Advisory Board (ECAB). With representation from agencies responsible for education, child care, higher education, Head Start, and other constituent groups, the ECAB developed Unidos por la Nitez Temprana (United for Early Childhood), Puerto Rico’s state plan for services to children from birth through 5 years, including a section on early education. In collaboration with the Department of Education, the ECAB developed and promoted the use of the Early Learning Guidelines by all early learning programs. In 2012-2013, approximately 1,400 supervisors, directors, and teachers from a variety of early learning programs received training in implementing standards.

ACUDEN also partnered with the University of Puerto Rico and other government agencies to create and validate a 5-level QRIS instrument to measure the quality of service in centers for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Puerto Rico’s quality identification symbol is the Pasito meaning “baby step” with five Pasitos identifying a high-quality center.

Puerto Rico submitted an ultimately unsuccessful application for competitive federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge funding in 2011.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCESS RANKINGS</th>
<th>RESOURCES RANKINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-YEAR-OLDS</td>
<td>STATE SPENDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-YEAR-OLDS</td>
<td>ALL REPORTED SPENDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Program</td>
<td>No Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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........................................................ NA
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ........................................ 31,648
State-funded Head Start enrollment .............................................. 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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

3-YEAR-OLDS

Pre-K 37%
Head Start 12%
Special Ed† 5%
Other/None 5%

4-YEAR-OLDS

3-YEAR-OLDS

11%

4-YEAR-OLDS

11%

† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

TOTAL BENCHMARKS
MET

No Program

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PRE-K* $0

HDST** $7,035

K-12*** NA

$ THOUSANDS

State Contributions
Federal Contributions
Local Contributions
TANF Spending

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