While South Dakota does not provide state-funded pre-K as defined in this report, the state addresses early childhood education in several ways. The Department of Education has authority for the Birth to Three early intervention program, and early childhood special education, and houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office. The Division of Child Care Services, within the Department of Social Services, is responsible for licensing early childhood programs, and administers direct child care assistance payments to low-income families. As of 2011, the South Dakota Bright Start Initiative began to assure native South Dakota children get a sound start in life, focusing on infant brain development and early childhood development.

The South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines, developed by the University of South Dakota with support from the Department of Education’s Head Start-State Collaboration Office and multiple stakeholders, are designed to be used in all settings that include children 3 to 5 years of age. The Guidelines are aligned with the South Dakota Content Standards for Kindergarten, which are part of the K–12 State Standards incorporating the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics. Domains addressed in the early learning guidelines include: social-emotional development and approaches toward learning; language and literacy; mathematics; science; health and physical development; creative arts; and social studies.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education indicate that at least 2,801 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 .......................................................... 1,526
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ......................................... 3,683
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.