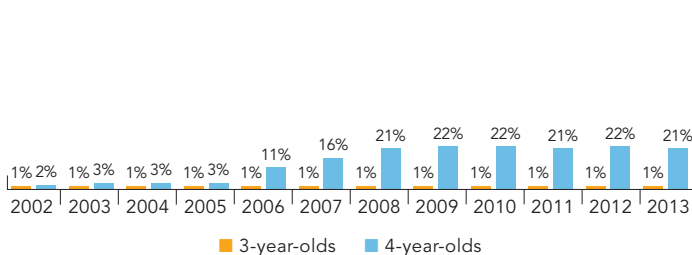
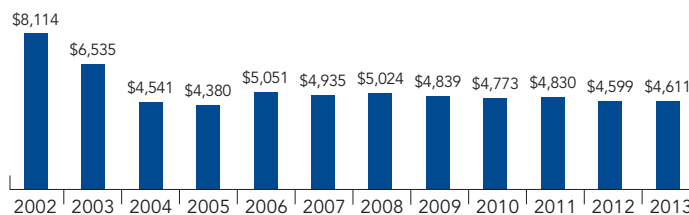


Tennessee

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2013 DOLLARS)



Tennessee's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Pilot Project began operating in 1998 with 30 classrooms in a variety of settings, through a competitive grant program. The Voluntary Pre-K for Tennessee Act of 2005 prompted the launch of the Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) program, adding 300 new classrooms to the existing ECE Pilot Project. A total of 18,609 children were enrolled in VPK classrooms throughout the state by the 2011-2012 school year, with every district offering at least one classroom. Updated figures for 2012-2013 were not available but are estimated to be similar to figures in 2011-2012, due to no changes in available programs.

In 2011 the Tennessee Department of Education restructured to create the Division of Special Populations (DSP). Situated within DSP, the Office of Early Learning (OEL) was responsible for VPK and oversight of the Head Start State Collaboration Office, Family Resource Centers, and the School Administered Child Care Program. The OEL was responsible for program administration, training, technical assistance, monitoring, and data collection for VPK. This office also coordinated and collaborated with other state agencies, local school systems, and community providers to gather information on best practices and research in support of early childhood education. In January 2013, the Tennessee Department of Education restructured the DSP. Oversight for the VPK program was transferred to the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, Department of Content and Resources Pre-K-12; the OEL ceased its function as a formal entity.

Grants for the state-funded VPK are available only to public schools through a competitive process, though these schools may contract with private child care agencies, Head Start agencies, institutions of higher education, public housing authorities, and any three-star rated community-based or private child-serving agency where lead teachers are licensed in early childhood education. All 136 school systems have at least one VPK classroom. Programs contracted to provide VPK services must operate within the jurisdiction of the school district. Due to lack of funding to expand the VPK program, school systems have submitted continuation applications for operating previously awarded VPK classrooms since the 2011-12 school year.

Eligibility is determined using a three-tier prioritization system. First priority is given to tier one 4-year-olds whose family income qualifies them for free or reduced-priced lunch as well as children in foster care or who are homeless. If space is available, children who have a history of abuse or neglect, are English Language Learners, have an IEP, or are in state custody may enroll as the second tier of eligibility. Any remaining slots may then be given to children who qualify for third tier eligibility based on locally determined risk factors, including single-parent families, teen parents, low parent education level, or a parent on active military duty. VPK only serves 4-year-olds, although at-risk 3-year-olds may be enrolled in pilot programs. Changes in age eligibility for VPK will be phased in beginning in the 2013-2014 school year to correspond with legislated changes made for kindergarten eligibility.

Since its inception, funding for VPK has relied on numerous sources, including general education revenue and, in the past, lottery revenue and federal TANF funds. The VPK program received a \$650,000 increase in state funds in the 2012-2013 school year. Federal Head Start, IDEA, Title I, and other funds are used to provide the required local match which may include in-kind contributions for facilities, staffing, and operational costs. There was no change in the funding level for the required local match in 2012-2013.

Program quality is monitored annually by state personnel and consultants through on-site visits and review of submitted reports including use of classroom quality assessment with program level outcomes incorporated into a program plan for continuous improvement. During the 2012-2013 school year, the Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt University was involved in the fifth year of an on-going external evaluation on the effectiveness of the VPK program.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
21	25

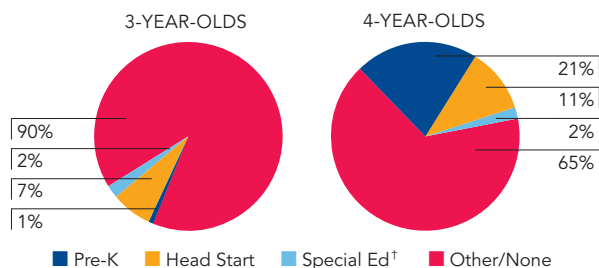
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
16	15

TENNESSEE VOLUNTARY PRE-K

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	18,609 ¹
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	185% FPL ²
Hours of operation	5.5 hours/day, 5 days/week ³
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	6,589
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	15,034
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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



[†] 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	Teaching license and EC endorsement ⁴	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Other ⁵	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	18 clock hours/year ⁶	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	16 ⁷		
4-year-olds	20 ⁷		
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:8		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Lunch and either breakfast or snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

9

RESOURCES

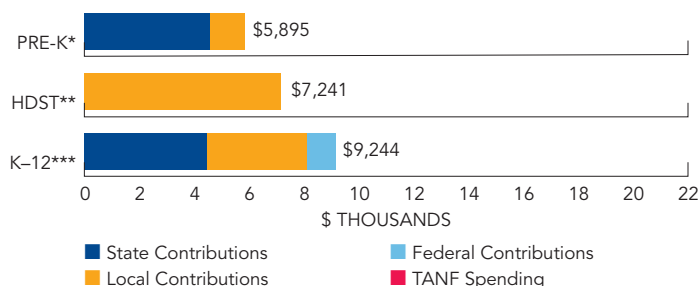
Total state pre-K spending	\$85,807,267
Local match required?	Yes ⁹
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,611
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$5,895

* 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



¹ Enrollment figures for 2012-2013 were unavailable. Figures reported are based on 2011-2012 enrollment.

² Once all available students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch are enrolled, LEAs are permitted to enroll children whose families do not meet this income criterion.

³ Naptime cannot be counted in the 5.5 hour minimum.

⁴ Permissible types of endorsements include those in: Pre-K- Grade 3, Pre-K-4, Pre-K-K, Pre-K-1 Special Education, and Pre-K-3 Special Education. The pre-K-4 certification and Special Education Pre-K-1 are no longer issued, but are still accepted for pre-K teachers in public and nonpublic settings. All Pre-K endorsements extend to include children from birth.

⁵ The LEA is required to hire an assistant teacher with a CDA or AA if one is available. If not, the LEA may hire one with a high school diploma and relevant experience working with ECE programs and the assistant must demonstrate progress toward completion of a CDA or AA.

⁶ All lead teachers working in public schools must meet the state requirement of 30 hours of in-service per year. The 18 hours required in early childhood for preschool teachers may count toward this total.

⁷ In mixed-age groups, a maximum of eight 3-year-olds can be in the class with 12 4-year-olds. If there are nine or more 3-year-olds, the classroom capacity is 16 students.

⁸ Dental screening and referrals are locally determined. Support services include parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, referral for social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. Other comprehensive services are determined locally.

⁹ The state Basic Education Plan (BEP) funding formula determines the state share and the amount of the local match for the classroom component based on each county's tax base. The local match may be in actual dollars or in-kind contributions e.g., (facilities, utilities, staffing, etc.).