Wisconsin's Constitution has included a promise to provide free, voluntary education for 4-year-olds since it became a state in 1848. Funds for 4K are paid to public schools, which then may subcontract with private child-care centers, community-based programs, or Head Start agencies. Programs providing parent support are allocated 60 percent of the standard per-pupil K–12 state funding amount, while part-day 4K spaces receive 50 percent.

Registration in 4K programs has grown recently, due to interest from more districts, and spaces added to existing programs. In 2012-13, 91% of the state’s school districts offered the 4K program. Approximately one third of these districts include partnerships between Head Start grantees or child care programs to offer preschool education services. The state has provided 4K start-up grants since the 2008-2009 school year.

In the 2011-2012 school year, Wisconsin implemented a statewide early literacy assessment for kindergarten students, and 4K programs will begin early literacy screening with PA LS PK in 2013-14. The state does not require other assessment at 4k, so districts determine their own assessment process. The 4K program was last evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes during the 2003-2004 year, but the University of Wisconsin Madison is currently involved in a national study exploring 4K in WI and NJ.

The Wisconsin Head Start program is a separate state-funded program offering supplemental state finances to federal Head Start grantees to provide comprehensive early childhood education for 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities or from low-income families. Participating programs follow the federal Head Start Performance Standards. Reductions in state supplemental funding have led to fewer spaces, however. Efforts have been made to bring together Head Start technical assistance and training with other professional development efforts at both the state and local levels. The state is exploring options for developing a longitudinal data system.

Wisconsin is a recipient of Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge funds, and many of the tasks supported by the grant involve 4K, including alignment with their QRIS and LDS. The department is revising the 4K policy bulletin.

The first two pages of Wisconsin’s profile give a general idea of the state’s overall promise and assistance to state-funded prekindergarten programs, including enrollment and state expenditure for both the Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program and the Head Start state supplement. The third page presents specific facts on the 4K program, and the fourth page focuses on the Wisconsin Head Start program.
STATE OVERVIEW

Total state program enrollment .............................................. 49,687
Total state spending ........................................................... $167,264,100
State spending per child enrolled ........................................... $3,366
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............................. $5,359

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

3-YEAR-OLDS

4-YEAR-OLDS

86%
4%
9%
1%

64%
7%
1%
28%

Pre-K
Head Start
Special Ed†
Other/None

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

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

| WI PGMS* | $5,359 |
| HDST**  | $7,853 |
| K-12*** | $12,448 |

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

$ THOUSANDS

State Contributions
Federal Contributions
Local Contributions
TANF Spending

* 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 RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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RESOURCES RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE SPENDING</th>
<th>ALL REPORTED SPENDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WISCONSIN FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state program enrollment ................................................. 48,590
School districts that offer state program ........................................ 91%
Income requirement ........................................................................ None
Hours of operation ........................................................................ Determined locally¹
Operating schedule ........................................................................ Determined locally¹
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..................................... 9,086
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................. 11,286
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......................... 1,097²

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY
Early learning standards ......................................................... Comprehensive
Teacher degree ........................................................................ Other Comprehensive
Teacher specialized training ................................................. Other Specializing in pre-K
HSD³
Teacher in-service ............................................................. 6 credit hours per 5 years
Maximum class size .............................................................. NA
3-year-olds ............................................................................. 20 or lower
4-year-olds ............................................................................. Determined locally
Staff-child ratio ................................................................. 1:10 or better
3-year-olds ............................................................................. NA
4-year-olds ............................................................................. Determined locally
Screening/referral ............................................................. Full physical exam⁴
Vision, hearing, and general health screenings prior to enrollment.
and support services
Meals .................................................................................... Depends on length of program day⁵
Monitoring .............................................................................. Site visits and other monitoring

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ......................................................... $161,000,000
State spending per child enrolled ................................................ $3,313
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................................... $5,351

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

4K* ......................................................................................... $5,351
HDST** .................................................................................. $7,853
K-12*** .................................................................................. $12,448

¹ Districts must provide a minimum of 437 hours of direct instruction per year, or 349.5 hours of instruction plus 87.5 hours of parent outreach. Most programs are part-day, 4-5 days per week for an academic year, but some districts may offer the program full-day for 2-3 days per week.
² Wisconsin did not break this figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age breakdowns used in the Access pie chart were estimated.
³ Assistant teachers in public settings can meet one of three requirements: at least two years of higher education, an associate (or higher) degree, or meet a rigorous standard of quality through a state or local academic assessment regardless of degree. The requirement for assistant teachers in nonpublic settings reflects child care licensing regulations. School districts that are Head Start grantees may require assistant teachers to have an AA and assistant teacher license.
⁴ State law supports vision, hearing, and general health screenings prior to enrollment. When 4K uses a community approach with Head Start, screenings are required. Support services include parent involvement activities, health services for children, referral to social services, referral for special education, parent conferences and/or home visits, and access to a school nurse, psychologist, and social worker.
⁵ If a school-based program operates longer than 2.5 hours, it is required to provide a meal or snack through the school nutrition program. Programs implemented in child care or Head Start must follow applicable requirements.

* 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 ................................................. 1,097
School districts that offer state program ................................. 92%
Income requirement ............................................................. 100% FPL
Hours of operation ................................................................. Determined locally, most common is 3 hours/day
Operating schedule ................................................................. Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......................... 9,086
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 11,286
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............... 1,097

**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning standards</td>
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<td>Comprehensive</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
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<tr>
<td>training</td>
<td>AA in CD(nonpublic)*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSO*</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
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<td>15 clock hours per year</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
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<td>Maximum class size</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td>1:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening/referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health; psychological/behavioral development, dental and support services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and support services</td>
<td>Lunch; snack</td>
<td>At least 1 support service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Other monitoring*</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESOURCES**

Total state pre-K spending ............................................. $6,264,100
Local match required? ..................................................... No
State Head Start spending ............................................. $6,264,100
State spending per child enrolled ....................... $5,710
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................. $5,710

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

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1. Wisconsin did not break this figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age breakdowns used in the Access pie chart were estimated, using proportions of federal Head Start enrollees in each age category.

2. State pre-K children must meet the federal Head Start income guidelines. Effective as of 2007, 52 percent of the enrollment may be children whose family incomes are between 100 and 130 percent FPL. After priority is given to children at or below 100 percent FPL, children in foster care, or who are homeless, are also eligible. Children eligible for free lunch are also eligible for this program with a Federal waiver. Grantees can prioritize their risk-selection process; children with more risk factors have greater priority.

3. Local programs determine operating schedule by the approved federal grant application model. Part-day is the most common schedule for hours per day, and summer school and full-year programs exist. Extended days are provided in collaboration with child care and school districts.

4. School districts that are federal Head Start grantees may require lead teachers to have a BA and appropriate licensure. Under the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007, all lead teachers were required to have at least an AA by October 2011, by September 30, 2013, and 50 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.

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5. For mixed-age groups, the maximum is 16 for class size and 1:8 for staff-to-child ratio.

6. Support services include parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and other support services in accordance with federal Head Start performance standards.

7. The federal Head Start Performance Standards require that part-day programs provide children with at least one-third of their daily nutritional needs, and full-day programs provide one-half to two-thirds of daily nutritional needs, depending on the length of the program day.

8. The state itself does not conduct monitoring of these programs though grantees are monitored by the federal Head Start system. Information such as grant applications, budget reports, sections of the federal application, and submission of the Head Start PIR are included.