Wyoming

While Wyoming does not have a state-funded pre-K program, the state does have a number of programs aimed at supporting early childhood education, though collaboration is limited. Numerous private preschool and childcare facilities providing academic instruction are licensed by the Department of Family Services (DFS), as well as several program through the University of Wyoming, community colleges, and school districts. Many programs, both licensed and non-licensed by the state, pursue accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). School districts may use a portion of their Title I funds for early education, though this information would not necessarily be reported to the state. There are a number of developmental preschools administered and funded through the Department of Health. Thirteen schools in Wyoming are funded with TANF dollars through DFS, though the funding and administration of the program are through the Wyoming Department of Education. These funds are awarded through a competitive grant process and provide high-quality preschool services to children starting at age 3, whose families qualify for TANF (at or below 185 percent FPL).

The Wyoming Early Childhood State Advisory Council, which was created in 2010, is a collaboration of a number of individuals from different disciplines, with the mission to serve Wyoming children and families by facilitating statewide collaboration, evaluating the early childhood system, and making recommendations to the governor, lawmakers, and state agencies. The Early Intervention Council focuses on children with special needs and services.

The Wyoming Early Learning Foundations, adopted in 2012, are comprehensive, covering the following domains: Physical well-being/motor development; social/emotional development; approaches toward learning; language development; and cognition and general knowledge.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education indicate that at least 611 general education students were enrolled in district-operated preschool programs in the 2011-2012 school year.
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.