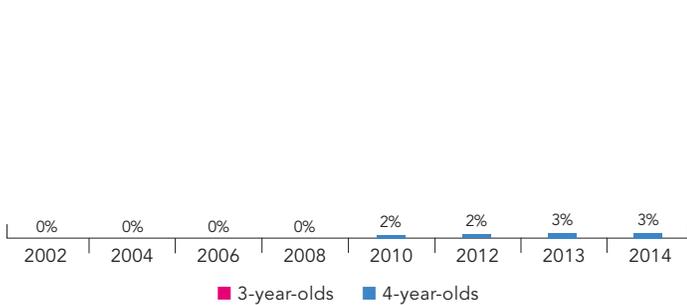
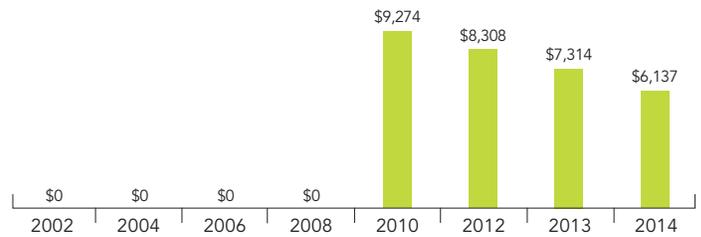


Alaska

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED* (2014 DOLLARS)



Four-year-olds in Alaska have the Alaska Pilot-Kindergarten Project (AP3) available in six school districts through competitive grants since the 2009-2010 school year. A majority of programs operate in combined public school and Head Start programs. Grantees offer half-day programs as well as outreach to families preferring in-home care for preschoolers. Funding is granted to public schools that may in turn subcontract with faith-based settings, family child care centers, Head Start programs, and private child care centers.

The federal Head Start guidelines share similarities with Alaska’s pre-K program eligibility requirements with eligibility based on family income at, or below, 100 percent of the federal poverty level. However, if space is available, programs can take a maximum of 35 percent of children from families between 100 and 130 percent FPL.

Renamed the Alaska Prekindergarten Program, the pre-K program shifted from pilot status in the 2011-2012 school year, to a scheduled endowment change and re-competition for state grants in fiscal year 2013. The state pre-K program had a total budget of \$2.5 million and served children in eight districts for the 2012-2013 school year. There was an \$800,000 drop in funding in 2013-2014, so fewer children were served this year. Although pre-K funding was slated for closure in 2014-2015, supporters were successful in providing grant extensions for 2 full years.

The Teaching Strategies Gold assessment was piloted by the state three times per year in two-thirds of the programs during the 2011-2012 school year. The state required its use for all grantees in the new competition. An evaluation of the AP3 program was completed in the 2010-2011 school year, determining process quality as well as program impact and child results based on pre- and post-assessments using the DIAL II, PPVT, and ECERS instruments.

Alaska has offered a supplement to federally recognized Head Start programs since the 1980s. The financial support is part of an effort to develop program quality through school readiness activities and professional improvement. The funds also offer admission to additional children and families whenever possible.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
39	None Served

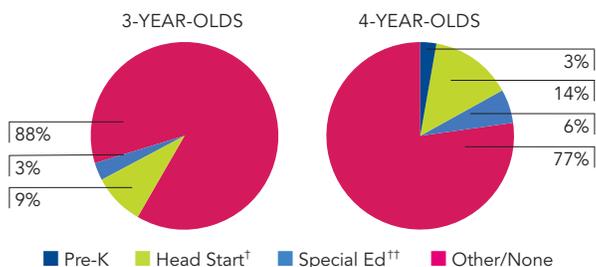
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
9	14

ALASKA PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	291
School districts that offer state program	15%
Income requirement	130% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	3 to 5 hours/day, 4 or 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	1,132
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	2,437
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state 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 ³	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE endorsement (P-3)	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA ³	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	6 credit hours/5 year	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision; hearing; immunizations; psychological/ and support services behavioral; developmental; and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Breakfast or lunch and one snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

10

RESOURCES

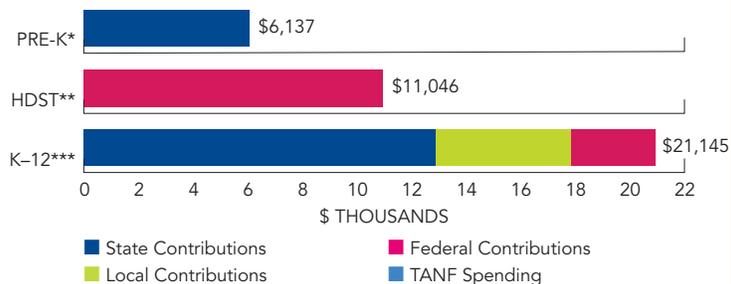
Total state pre-K spending	\$1,786,000
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$5
State spending per child enrolled	\$6,137
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$6,137

* 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 2013-2014 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 '13-'14 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Mirroring federal Head Start guidelines, up to 35 percent of 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. In addition, some communities may meet poverty of access criteria per federal Head Start regulations.

² All programs are part day and must operate for at least 3 hours per day, but cannot operate for more than 5 hours per day. Programs operate for 4 or 5 days per week, for a minimum of 14 hours per week, though the actual schedule is determined locally. Programs may partner with child care or other services to provide wraparound care.

³ Teachers must be state certified with a BA in ECE or a related field or specialized training in a related field, and assistant teachers must have a current CDA, 12 ECE credits, or an AA in ECE or with specialized training in early education or a related field.

⁴ All programs follow state pre-elementary statute and regulations. School districts partnering with Head Start programs must follow federal Head Start requirements. Support services include parenting support or training, health services for children, and nutrition information.

⁵ Alaska's state Head Start funds are used to enhance Head Start services and improve quality. About 63 percent of the programs are jointly operated by public schools and Head Start.