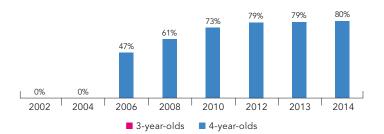
# Florida

#### PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED\*

### STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED\* (2014 DOLLARS)





lorida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program was created as a result of the 2002 state constitutional amendment requiring prekindergarten access for all of Florida's 4-year-olds. The program began operating in 2005, serving approximately 100,000 children. Since that time, enrollment increased steadily to more than 175,000 children in the 2011-2012 program year, decreasing in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 in response to a declining preschool population. VPK was jointly managed in 2013-2014 by Florida's Office of Early Learning (OEL) and the Department of Children and Families. Florida's Office of Early Learning (OEL) was established as an independent agency administratively linked to the DOE, separated from Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation in 2011.

Age-eligible children are enrolled in either a 300 hour summer program, which every school district is mandated to offer, or a school year program totaling 540 instructional hours. Teachers in the school-year program are required to have at minimum a Child Development Associate (CDA) degree or equivalent credential. Teachers in the summer program are required to have a bachelor's degree. More than 65 percent of the lead teachers hold a Child Development Associate or Associate degree. In 2011, the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds was approved by the State Board of Education, which all programs were required to meet in the 2012-2013 school year.

A variety of settings provide VPK, such as public schools, accredited nonpublic schools, licensed child care centers, accredited faith-based centers, and licensed family child care homes. More than 80 percent of the children are provided services in nonpublic school settings. Regional early learning coalitions are formed to monitor programs for compliance and administer VPK. The coalitions also distribute funds to VPK programs based on a fixed hourly rate.

The VPK program is reviewed annually as part of the legislative appropriation process and funding is determined by the legislative body. VPK is assessed annually based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS), composed of FAIR and ECHOS, administered within the first 30 days of kindergarten, comparing children and programs that participated in VPK to those that did not. Legislation adopted in 2011 requires the State Board of Education to periodically adopt a minimum kindergarten readiness rate to assess satisfactory delivery of the VPK Education Program by providers and schools. Beginning with the 2011-2012 program year, the state changed the requirements for children to be ready for kindergarten to require that children be rated as proficient on both the ECHOS and FAIR components of FLKRS. Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, all providers are required to administer the Florida VPK assessment. Results from the first and third assessment periods will be collected and used as a pre- and post-assessment to demonstrate learning gains.

Florida's School Readiness Program, a separate initiative begun in 1999, expanded in 2001 by incorporating two other state programs—the Prekindergarten Early Intervention Program, which focused on young children's health, and the State Migrant Prekindergarten Program, which served 3- and 4-year-olds whose parents are migratory agricultural or fishing industry laborers—offers financial assistance for child care to qualified parents. This report focuses solely on the VPK program.

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

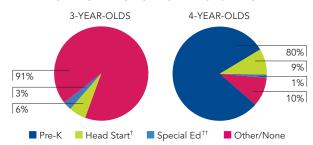
RESOURCES RANKINGS		
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
36	37	

#### FLORIDA VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

#### **ACCESS**

Total state program enrollment	170,266
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	No income requirement
Hours of operation	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Operating schedule	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .	19,957
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, age	es 3 and 433,322
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3	and 40

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



 $^\dagger$  Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.  $^\dagger$  Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

#### **QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

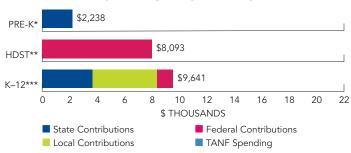
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQU MEET BENG	
Early learning standards .		Comprehensive		
Teacher degreel	BA (summer); CDA or equivalent (school year) <sup>2</sup>	BA		
Teacher specializedBA training	A or higher in ECE or related field (school year); CDA and emergent literacy training (summer) <sup>2</sup>	1 0 1		
Assistant teacher degree	None <sup>3</sup>	CDA or equivalent		
Teacher in-service	10 clock hours/year <sup>4</sup>	At least 15 hours/year		TOTAL BENCHMARKS
		20 or lower		MET
	NA (summer); 20 (school year)			3
		1:10 or better		
	1:12 (summer); 1:11 (school year) <sup>5</sup>			
Screening/referraland support services	Screenings/referrals; and support services <sup>6</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service		
Meals	Depends on length of program day <sup>7</sup>	At least 1/day		
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	$\checkmark$	

#### **RESOURCES**

Total state pre-K spending	\$381,108,517
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,238
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,238

- $\mbox{^*}$  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.
- <sup>1</sup> All school districts are required to offer the summer VPK program. VPK programs may choose to operate a 300-hour summer program or a school year program, totaling at least 540 hours of service. The operating schedule and hours are determined locally, but most school year programs operate 3 hours per day, 5 days per week. Most summer programs operate 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. Providers are allowed to determine their individual calendars to meet those requirements.
- <sup>2</sup> Teacher qualification requirements are different for the summer and school-year programs. Teachers in the summer programs must have a BA in early childhood, primary, or preschool education, prekindergarten disabilities, family and consumer science, or elementary education. Teachers in the school-year programs are required to have a CDA or the Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC) equivalent and must have completed a Department of Education course on emergent literacy.
- <sup>3</sup> Assistant teachers do not have to meet any degree requirements, but must complete a 40-hour training for licensed child care providers.

#### SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



- <sup>4</sup> Lead teachers must participate in a minimum of 10 hours of professional development annually. Lead teachers in licensed programs are required to maintain a valid CDA or the FCCPC as a minimum credential for the school-year program, which must be renewed every five years. Lead teachers in the summer program must have a bachelor's degree in a specified major and/or maintain their teacher certification, which includes 6 semester hours of college credit or equivalent earned during each five-year renewal period.
- During a special legislative session in 2009, the Florida Legislature adjusted the staff-child ratio for the summer program from 1:10 to 1:12. In 2011, the legislature change the staffchild ratio for the school year to require one teacher for classes of up to 11 students.
- <sup>6</sup> All children participating in programs in licensed child care facilities or public schools must have evidence of vision, hearing, and immunization/general physical health screenings. For public school programs, referrals for further follow-up, as appropriate, are also required.
- <sup>7</sup> Meals and snacks are required for extended-day programs.