While Idaho does not provide state-funded pre-K, it does invest in early education through other means. To provide additional slots in Head Start and Early Head Start, the state channels $1.5 million in TANF funds into a Head Start supplement. The funds typically support an average addition of 200 Head Start slots, though the number varies based on how many slots are in the more expensive Early Head Start program. A bill proposing a three-year pilot pre-K program in five preschools introduced during the 2013-2014 year did not get out of committee.

Idaho’s Early Learning eGuidelines were revised and updated in 2013. The Guidelines cover many different aspects of early learning, including: approaches to learning and cognitive development; motor development, physical well-being and health; social-emotional development; general knowledge; and communication, language, and literacy. The document provides guidance through third grade for approaches to learning, cognition, and social and emotional development; however the rest provide guidance from birth through kindergarten. The eGuidelines have been crosswalked with both the Idaho Core Standards, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards, and the Head Start Child Outcome Framework.

The Idaho STARS quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for child care providers is a multi-agency collaboration. The system also assists child care providers in increasing their knowledge and skills in early care and education through a Professional Development System (PDS). Idaho STARS meets the goals set in the Early Learning Guidelines, and participation in the QRIS is voluntary.
ACCESS
Total state program enrollment ................................................................. 0
School districts that offer state program .............................................. NA
Income requirement ........................................................................ NA
Hours of operation ........................................................................ NA
Operating schedule ......................................................................... NA
Special education enrollment ......................................................... 1,846
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ....................................... 2,926
State-funded Head Start enrollment ............................................... 198

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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.

3-YEAR-OLDS 4-YEAR-OLDS

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

3-YEAR-OLDS

93%
5%
4%

Pre-K Head Start† Special Ed†† Other/None

4%
9%
87%

4-YEAR-OLDS

93%
5%
4%

Pre-K Head Start† Special Ed†† Other/None

4%
9%
87%

† 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.

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

No Program

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PRE-K* $0

HDST** $9,042

K-12*** $10,948

State Contributions Federal Contributions
Local Contributions TANF Spending