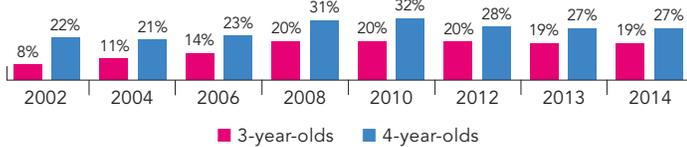
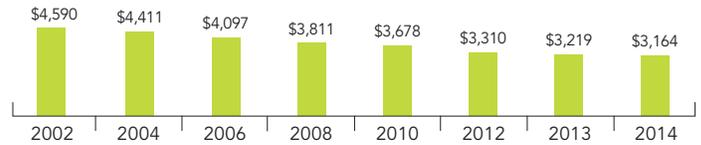


Illinois

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED* (2014 DOLLARS)



Calls for statewide education improvement were finally answered when the Illinois Prekindergarten Program for At-Risk Children was founded in 1985. The state Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) has provided funding for the program since 1998, along with coordinating services for at-risk infants and toddlers, offering parenting training, and supporting preschool education programs. The grant requires that at least 11 percent of its funding serves children age 3 or younger.

The Preschool for All initiative was created in 2006, with the goal of fully funding the program by 2012. The program began with the intention of offering preschool education to every 3- and 4-year-old in the state. Family child care homes, public schools, Head Start programs, and private child care and faith-based centers are all eligible to apply for competitive grants. The program is available in every county, though funding limitations do not allow every child whose families seek early learning to enroll. The ECBG, which provides state funding for both Preschool for All 3-5 and the Prevention Initiative 0-3 programs, received level funding in 2013-2014, which represented an 8% cut from what programs had received in the 2011-2012 school year.

Throughout the expansion phase of Preschool for All, at-risk children have been the first funding priority. At-risk status is determined locally, based on requirements identified by districts and agencies in their funding proposals. Low income, low parent education levels, exposure to drug or alcohol abuse in the family, developmental delays, and a history of family neglect, violence or abuse all are considered risk factors. Families with an income at 400 percent of the federal poverty level are given second priority to Preschool for All funding. However, currently none of those programs serving the second priority have been funded, since there are still inadequate funds to serve all children in the first priority.

Preschool for All programs were mandated to meet bilingual education requirements, as of the 2009-2010 school year: all pre-K teachers have to meet the appropriate requirements by July 1, 2016. Pre-K programs must provide instruction in the primary home language and English, if 20 or more English Language Learners (ELL) that speak the same language are enrolled. Program of instruction is locally determined for centers with 19 or fewer ELLs speaking the same language, however this may include ESL and home language supports as needed.

During the 2010-2011 school year, a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Stakeholder Committee convened to provide recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education on developing a comprehensive assessment procedure. The Illinois State Board of Education is implementing a comprehensive kindergarten assessment process that was piloted in the 2012-2013 school year. The second phase pilot implementation in 2013-2014 doubled the number of school districts participating. Statewide implementation is planned. The DRDP-School Readiness (DRDP-SR) is being adapted, piloted, field tested, and calibrated for the Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS).

Illinois earned grants from federal Race to the Top and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge competitions. This helped with implementing a Quality Rating and Improvement System, beginning in the 2013-2014 year, including all Preschool for All programs; revising the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards to align them with Common Core State Standards and the Head Start Framework for the 2013-2014 school year; and implementing the KIDS assessment.

In 2014, Illinois was awarded a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant for \$20 million.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
20	3

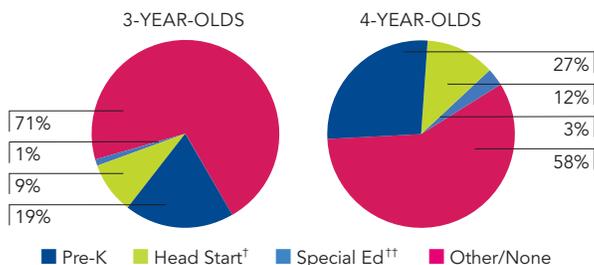
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
31	30

ILLINOIS PRESCHOOL FOR ALL

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	75,231
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	Low income is one of the risk factors ¹
Hours of operation	At least 2.5 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	22,117
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	34,227
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	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Professional Educator License with ECE endorsement	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	120 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health, and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Snack (part day) ⁵	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

8

RESOURCES

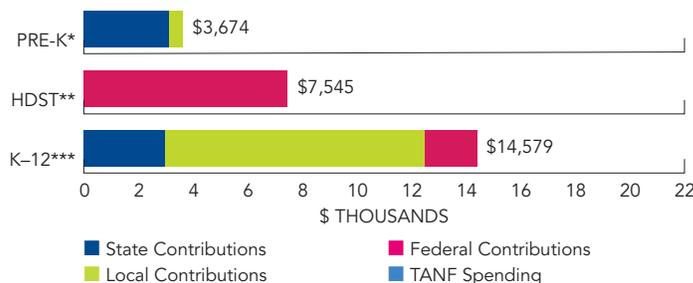
Total state pre-K spending	\$276,431,173
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,164
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,674

* 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 Although there is not a state-specified income requirement, low income is one of the risk factors included in the weighted eligibility criteria.

² There are 28 programs that offer school-day sessions only; 21 programs that offer both school-day and part-day sessions, and 413 programs that offer part-day sessions only.

³ Assistant teachers must have an AA or paraprofessional approval. To receive paraprofessional approval, in addition to holding a high school diploma or equivalent, an individual must have completed 60 semester hours of college credit at a regionally accredited institution of higher education; or pass either the ParaPro test offered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) or Work Keys test offered by ACT, with at least the score identified by the State Board of Education in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

⁴ Support services include parent conferences and/or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.

⁵ School-day programs must provide lunch and snacks; part-day programs must provide snacks.