Both Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) programs receive supplemental financial support from the state of Minnesota, in an effort to improve access for children from birth to age 5. Qualifications for financial support are simple; any organization that obtains federal Head Start backing can receive aid. Agencies must always follow the federal Head Start Performance Standards, though they may work in joint ventures with private child care centers, public schools, and family child care homes. The Early Childhood Indicators of Progress, Minnesota’s early learning standards, guide support and training for all program staff members and on technical assistance. In the 2009-2010 school year, Minnesota was the recipient of a Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant.

A second state initiative called the School Readiness Program provides services through subcontracted charter schools, community-based organizations, and school districts. Improving kindergarten readiness is the program focus, and is carried out through a number of approaches. These approaches include services for children with disabilities, home visits, and preschool education programs. Services offered differ from district to district as they are decided by individual districts. Programs must meet several requirements including that they must have research-based program content, support parent involvement, collaborate with other local programs, and provide children with appropriate screenings and referrals as needed. The School Readiness Program is excluded from this profile because the state does not track financial support data and program enrollment for center-based preschool education services.

### Minnesota

#### Access Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-Year-Olds</th>
<th>3-Year-Olds</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>41</td>
<td>24</td>
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#### Resources Rankings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>State Spending</th>
<th>All Reported Spending</th>
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<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MINNESOTA HEAD START

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .........................................................1,740
School districts that offer state program .................................................100% (counties/parishes)
Income requirement ..................................................................................No income requirement1
Hours of operation ..................................................................................Determined locally2
Operating schedule ..................................................................................Determined locally2
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..............................................8,563
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............................8,788
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..................................0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
--- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning standards .................................................................Comprehensive ........................................Comprehensive
Teacher degree .............................................................................BA (public); AA (nonpublic)3 ........................BA
Teacher specialized ........EC endorsement with or without SpEd (public); Specializing in pre-K training Pre-K–K, AA in ECE or CD (nonpublic)3
Assistant teacher degree .................................................................CDA4 ..............................CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service ...........................................................................15 clock hours/year ...........................At least 15 hours/year
Maximum class size ...........................................................................20 or lower
3-year-olds ......................................................................................17
4-year-olds ......................................................................................20
Staff-child ratio ..................................................................................1:10 or better
3-year-olds ......................................................................................2:17
4-year-olds ......................................................................................1:10
Screening/referral .............................................................................Vision; hearing; height/weight/BMI; blood pressure; immunizations; psychological/behavioral; full physical exam; developmental; dental; and support services5
and support services 4 ..............................At least 1 support service
Meals ..............................................................................................Breakfast and lunch4 ..............................At least 1/day
Monitoring ......................................................................................Site visits and other monitoring ........................Site visits

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .................................................................$14,947,3097
Local match required? ...........................................................................No
State spending per child enrolled .........................................................$8,074
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................................................$8,074

* 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.

1 State pre-K children must meet the federal Head Start income guidelines. Effective December 2007, 35 percent of enrollment may be children whose family incomes are between 100 and 130 percent FPL after priority is given to children at 100 percent or below FPL.

2 Schedules are determined locally, but must be in compliance with federal Head Start regulations. Programs must operate at least 3.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, and 32 weeks per year.

3 Under the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007, all lead teachers were required to have at least an AA by October 2011; by September 30, 2013, 50 percent must have at least a BA. By September 30, 2013, all assistant teachers must have at least a CDA or be enrolled in a program to receive a CDA, AA, or BA within two years. In a public school, teacher union rules require that teachers have at least a BA.

4 Assistant teachers in settings subject to child care regulations must work under the supervision of a teacher, be at least 18 years old, and meet one of nine combined credential, educational, and experience requirements, such as a high school diploma, 12 quarter units in early childhood or a related field, and 2,080 hours of experience. Federal Head Start requires that by 2013 all assistant teachers have a CDA or be enrolled in a program to receive a CDA, AA, or BA within two years.

5 Support services include parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.

6 Federal Head Start Performance Standards require half-day programs to provide children with at least one-third of their daily nutritional needs (breakfast or lunch), and full-day programs to provide two meals or two-thirds of their daily nutritional needs.

7 All spending through this initiative is directed toward Head Start programs.