North Dakota does not provide state-funded pre-K as defined in this report. However, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction addresses early childhood education in several initiatives. Two early childhood grant opportunities are provided for educators and school districts. Prekindergarten, childcare, and Head Start teachers and assistant teachers can enhance their credentials at North Dakota state colleges and universities through Early Childhood Continuing Education Grants of up to $3,000 per biennium. Up to $10,000 is available through Early Childhood Environment Grants to establish, support, or enhance new or expanded early childhood environments.

In 2013, the North Dakota Pre-kindergarten Content Standards were published. The standards are voluntary, but cover multiple domains including: physical well-being and motor development; social-emotional development; approaches toward learning; language development; and cognitive and general knowledge. The standards were aligned with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework as well as the state's standards for kindergarten. Early childhood professionals can also take advantage of state-provided professional development opportunities aligned with these standards.

With support from a $6.1 million Enhanced Assessment Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, North Dakota has joined nine other states and three nationally recognized research partners in a consortium to develop a state-of-the-art system for assessing young children’s learning. North Carolina, the lead state for the Consortium, is developing a K-3 formative assessment that includes a KEA. The K-3 assessment process will begin at kindergarten entry (KEA), generating a Child Profile of children's learning and development, and continue through third grade, making information that will be used to inform teaching and learning available to both teachers and students/parents. Through this project, the Consortium will provide teachers, parents, students, policymakers, and others who care about education in the critical early years, a user-friendly, effective resource for generating clear information on where children are in their learning and where they need to go next.

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction conducted a legislatively mandated study on early childhood care and education in the state of North Dakota. Delivered to the Legislative Management Council in June 2014, it is now available on the department’s early childhood education website. In April 2015, legislation was passed that will provide $3 million in state grants to pre-kindergarten programs serving low-income children, starting in 2016.
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.

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.