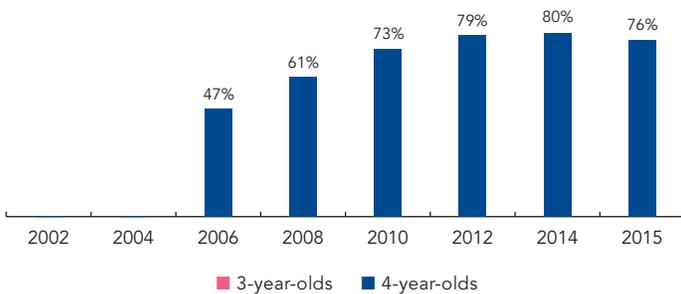


Florida

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED* (2015 DOLLARS)



Florida’s Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program was created as a result of the 2002 state constitutional amendment requiring pre-kindergarten access for all of Florida’s 4-year-olds. The program began operating in 2005, serving approximately 100,000 children. Since that time, enrollment has 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% 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% of the children are provided services in nonpublic school settings. Regional early learning coalitions are formed to monitor programs for compliance and to 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 were 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.

Please note that funding and enrollment data are current; all other information was provided and confirmed for the 2014 Yearbook.

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

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
40	41

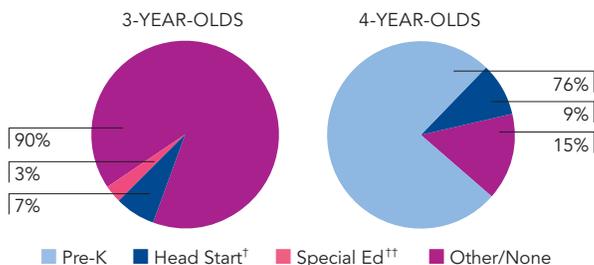
POLICIES TO SUPPORT	
DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS	WORKFORCE
Not Reported	

FLORIDA VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	166,522
School districts that offer state program.....	100% (school districts)
Income requirement	No income requirement
Hours of operation	Determined locally
Operating schedule	Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	20,816
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	33,596
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 CHECKLIST¹

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (summer); CDA or equivalent ² plus specified training (school year)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	BA or higher in ECE or related field (summer); ² CDA and emergent literacy training (school year)	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	10 clock hours/year	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	12 (summer); 20 (school year)		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds.....	1:12 (summer); 1:11 or 2:12-20 (school year)		
Screening/referral and support services	Determined locally	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depends on length of program day ³	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

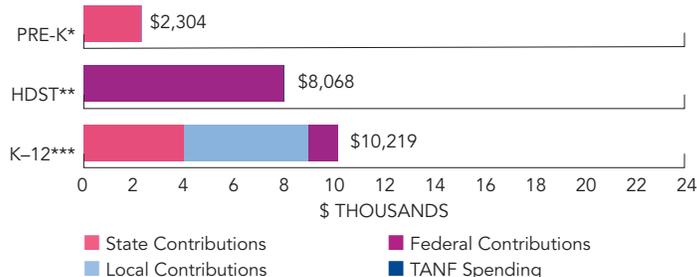
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$383,703,444
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,304
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$2,304

* 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 2014-2015 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.
 *** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '14-'15 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Data on Florida's quality standards are from the 2013-2014 school year. However no policy changes are known that would have changed the benchmarks met.
² 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.
³ Meals and snacks are required for extended-day programs.