Indiana successfully launched two state-funded preschool pilot programs, with the goal of expanding the enrollment of low-income 4-year-old children in high-quality early childhood education. The On My Way Pre-K program was signed into law in 2014 to provide grants to eligible low-income 4-year-old children for qualified early education services. The pilot was run in 13 school districts across four counties in the state. During the 2013 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly enacted the Early Education Matching Grant (EEMG) through 2018. Both of these grant programs require services to be delivered via public schools and licensed or registered child care providers who have achieved Level 3 or Level 4 in Paths to QUALITY™ and for On My Way Pre-K or accredited private schools. The EEMG program currently serves less than 1% of the population, which does not meet the definition of a state-funded preschool program. The EEMG program is consequently not profiled in this publication.

These pilot programs have expanded the number of Level 3 and Level 4 high-quality programs in Indiana, affecting not only the 4-year-old children enrolled, but also all children enrolled in these programs. These programs have also increased the number of quality slots in Indiana for these low-income children, who will now have an opportunity to both attend pre-K and to be better prepared for kindergarten.

August 2015 will begin the first full year of Indiana’s state-funded preschool program On My Way Pre-K. Current levels of funding have been extended through 2018, and a longitudinal study of the preschool children enrolled with these grants and a control group will be completed by Purdue University, following these children to third grade.

There is no state-level policy in Indiana that regulates services for dual language learners. Data about the home language of children is collected in the state pre-K database and includes information on home language as well as ethnicity. Indiana supports and sponsors professional development regarding best practices for dual language learners.
ON MY WAY PRE-K

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .................................................. 415
School districts that offer state program .................................... 3% (school districts)
Income requirement ................................................................. 127% FPL
Hours of operation ................................................................. 2.5-5 or more hours/day
Operating schedule ................................................................. Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............................. 10,387
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 12,998
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................. 0

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ....................................................... $1,073,852
Local match required? ............................................................. Yes
State spending per child enrolled ........................................... $2,588
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............................... $2,875

* 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.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS are based on requirements of the quality rating system - Paths to QUALITY™.

Programs must provide nutritious meals and snacks at appropriate times. Part-day programs are required to provide a snack. Full-day programs provide meals according to licensing requirements.

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY                                      STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT                                      BENCHMARK                                      DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?

Early learning standards .......................... Comprehensive  ........................................ Comprehensive
Teacher degree ................................................ Other¹ ................................................ BA
Teacher specialized training ........................ None ................................................ Specializing in pre-K
Assistant teacher degree ............................... Other¹ ................................................ CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service .............................................. 20 clock hours/year ................................ At least 15 hours/year
Maximum class size ........................................... NA ................................................ NA
3-year-olds ...................................................... 20 or lower
4-year-olds ...................................................... 24
Staff-child ratio ................................................... 1:10 or better
3-year-olds ...................................................... NA
4-year-olds ...................................................... 1:12
Screening/referral ................................................ None; support services ........................ Vision, hearing, health; and
and support services ........................................... at least 1 support service
Meals .............................................................. Depends on length of program day² ........... At least 1/day
Monitoring .......................................................... Site visits and other monitoring .............. Site visits

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

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DATA SOURCES

1 Education expenditures are based on requirements of the quality rating system - Paths to QUALITY™.

2 Programs must provide nutritious meals and snacks at appropriate times. Part-day programs are required to provide a snack. Full-day programs provide meals according to licensing requirements.