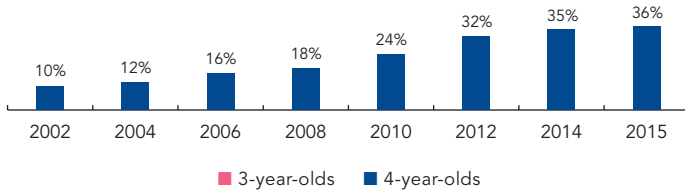
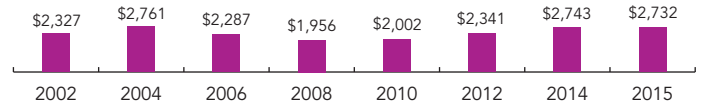


# Maine

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED\*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED\* (2015 DOLLARS)



Maine established its Two-Year Kindergarten initiative in 1983 by allocating resources to local districts through the school funding formula. State-funded programs for 4-year-olds have been separately defined as the Public Preschool Program (PPP) since 2007, and remain funded through Maine’s school funding formula, with distributions going directly to one of the 242 school administrative units (SAUs) or to the Unorganized Territory. Legislation enacted in 2014 encouraged voluntary preschool throughout the state, increasing the number of public preschool programs serving children at risk, and in 2014-2015, 88% of SAUs had a PPP. The 2014 legislation requires that all SAUs have at least one preschool classroom by 2018-2019.

Although many SAUs have partnered with community-based child-care programs or Head Start agencies to offer early childhood services, the majority of PPP classrooms are located in public schools. During the 2014-2015 school year, 32.2% of Maine’s public schools had a PPP.

In 2014-2015, Maine’s preschool programs served 5,080 children, approximately 35% of the state’s 4-year-olds. In 2014-2015, the state spent \$13.8 million on PPP. This does not include additional weighted state funds, federal funds, and local funds that were blended by SAUs. Schools are required to provide a local match to draw down their per-pupil state subsidy. The required local match is part of the school funding formula based on property wealth. In 2014, Maine was awarded a federal Preschool Expansion Grant that will create additional PPP classrooms with an estimated \$14.7 million over four years.

Regardless of setting, all lead teachers are required to hold a BA degree and an Early Childhood-endorsed teaching certificate from the Department of Education. New PPP classrooms are allocated money for instructional coaches to support teachers in aligning preschool to the K-3 curriculum. In addition, the state funding formula provides funds to SAUs for professional development on a yearly basis. PPP teachers are evaluated through the K-12 Educator Effectiveness system, which ties wage or salary increases to teacher performance.

Maine’s Early Learning and Development Standards were revised in 2015 and aligned with the Maine College and Career Standards and WIDA. Three percent of PPP children come from homes in which English is not the primary language. Maine has a state policy for supporting DLL/ELL students and adds additional weight to the state formula to support these students. Teachers are supported through webinars and conferences and families are provided interpreters.

Maine’s Chapter 124, Public Preschool Program Standards (Standards) were promulgated as a regulation in December 2014. The Standards implement programmatic changes in 2015-2016, including child-staff ratio, group size, the use of evidence-based curricula, and child screening and assessments. First-year programs will receive a monitoring visit from the Maine Department of Education. During the 2015-2016, the monitoring system will be piloted, evaluated, and amended as needed.

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

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
37	40

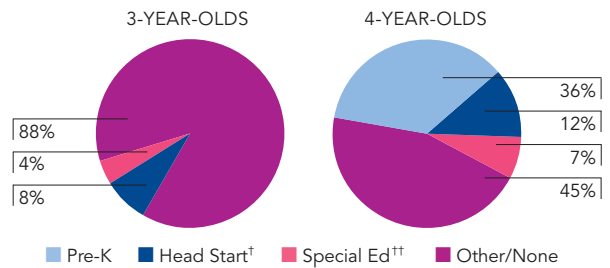
POLICIES TO SUPPORT	
DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS	WORKFORCE
✓	—

# MAINE PUBLIC PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	5,080
School districts that offer state program .....	88% (school administrative units)
Income requirement .....	No income requirement
Hours of operation .....	2 hours/day
Operating schedule .....	Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	1,934
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	2,478
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	186

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 .....	081 Early Childhood Education	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	Educator Technician II (60 credits)	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	6 credit hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	No limit		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	1:15		
Screening/referral .....	Determined locally; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	No meals required	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

5

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$13,877,541
Local match required? .....	Yes
State Head Start spending .....	\$2,512,730
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$2,732
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$2,732

\* 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

