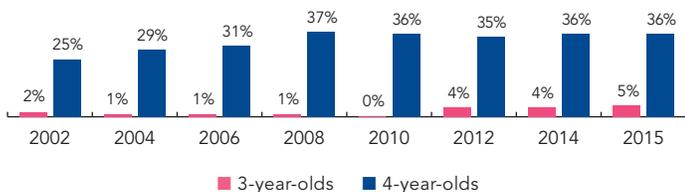
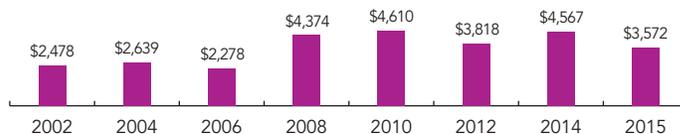


Maryland

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED* (2015 DOLLARS)



In 1980, Maryland created the Extended Elementary Education Program (EEEE), a pilot preschool program in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County. The program eventually expanded throughout the state and by 2002, served 25% of the state’s 4-year-olds. In 2002, finance reform legislation passed, requiring all local boards of education to increase pre-kindergarten enrollment in public schools to all economically underprivileged 4-year-olds by the 2007-2008 school year and the program became known as the Prekindergarten Program. Since 2012-2013, enrolment in pre-K has been steadily increasing and in 2015, 30,381 children participated in pre-K. In 2014, the Prekindergarten Expansion Act added an additional \$4.3 million to expand the access to half-day and full-day public Pre-K for 4-year-olds from families with household incomes at or below 300% of FPL.

Maryland has 25 early learning centers of distinction, in addition to public prekindergarten. These centers are known as Judy Centers, and are located in Title 1 school districts. The Judy Centers work collaboratively with select elementary schools to offer comprehensive, year-round services for children from birth to age 6. Judy Center Partnerships during the 2014-2015 school year provided enhanced, continuous learning opportunities to 15,205 young children and their families, including 6,070 children younger than 3 years old. Some of these children may be counted in the pre-K enrollment final count.

Head Start programs also receive supplemental funds from Maryland, in order to expand enrollment and to support extended-day and summer services. The state provided \$1.8 million statewide in order to support extended-day/week services for 11,356 Head Start attendees during the 2014-2015 school year.

All of Maryland’s school districts offer pre-K. All state-funded pre-K programs must participate and achieve Level 5 in Maryland EXCEL (the state’s QRIS system). Maryland’s Division of Early Childhood Development, Early Learning Branch, monitors pre-K programs annually using a self-developed checklist.

Maryland was one of nine states financed in the initial round of the federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge in 2012. As part of this grant, Maryland’s early learning standards were revised in 2015 and aligned with Common Core and the state’s college and career ready standards. In 2013, the state received additional federal funding to coordinate a consortium to develop and implement a statewide kindergarten entrance assessment and voluntary pre-K formative tool that was piloted in 2014-2015. In 2014, Maryland was awarded a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant for \$15 million.

Revised pre-kindergarten regulations were implemented in 2014-2015 to help districts meet the kindergarten readiness needs of low-income, special education, and English Language Learner (ELL) students. Although state-level policy exists for ELLs for K–12, for pre-K ELL policies are determined at the local level. In kindergarten, the WIDA assessment tool is used to determine if children should exit from ELL status. Recruitment and outreach information is provided to families in the appropriate home language and a home language information survey is sent home at the beginning of the school year. Professional development modules are being created to support PD regarding best practices for DLLs

Maryland requires salary parity as reflected in school district contracts for teachers working in public and nonpublic pre-K settings. Collective bargaining agreements also require the same pay scale for teachers with equivalent education in pre-K and K-3. Credentialing and QRIS bonuses tie salary incentives to pre-K teacher performance.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
14	16

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
31	36

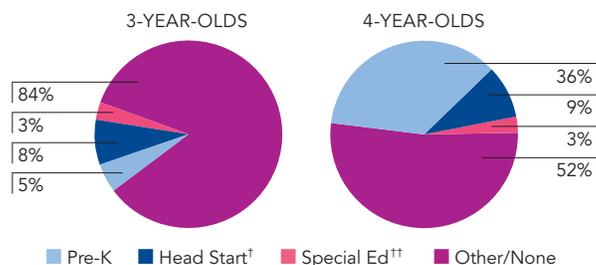
POLICIES TO SUPPORT	
DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS	WORKFORCE
—	✓

MARYLAND PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	30,381
School districts that offer state program	100% (school districts)
Income requirement	185% FPL
Hours of operation	2.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	7,941
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	8,861
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	4,234

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	Early Childhood	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Determined locally (public); HSD (nonpublic) ¹	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	24 hours/year	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20 ²		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Vision; hearing; height/weight/BMI; blood pressure; immunizations; psychosocial/behavioral; full physical exam; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Breakfast and/or lunch; depends on length of program day	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

8

RESOURCES

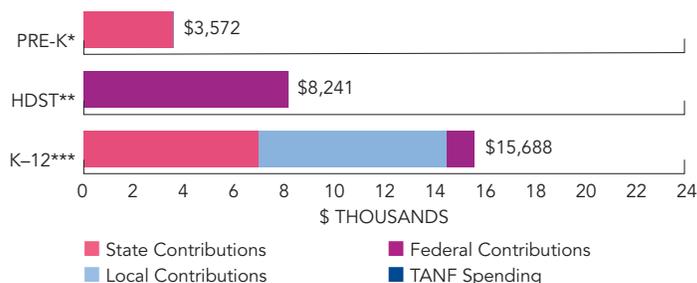
Total state pre-K spending	\$108,517,116
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$1,800,000
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,572
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,572

* 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 Paraprofessionals in Title I schools must have completed two years of college, hold an AA degree, or have a qualifying score of 455 on the ParaPro assessment.

² State policy stipulates an average of 20 students per classroom. Exceptions may occur where individual classrooms exceed this ratio, provided an overall program average of 20 is maintained. By policy, 3-year-olds are not eligible for state pre-k, but state child care regulations require a maximum class size of 20 and a staff to child ratio of 1:10 for 3- and 4-year-olds.