The state of New Hampshire supports early childhood education through several measures, although it does not have a state-funded pre-K program that meets the criteria of this report. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) oversees early education and care services for children from birth through age 5 years. The department licenses early childhood programs and administers preschool scholarships through its child-care assistance program for families with low incomes.

The Department of Education’s (DOE) oversight does not begin until kindergarten, but it does oversee the provision of early childhood special education programming and progress monitoring of IDEA Part B funded preschool programs. In addition, the NH DOE oversees voluntary preschool programs in public schools which were supported in 2014-2015 with $1.7 million dollars of Title I funds. Jointly, Title I and IDEA Part B supported 27% of all 4-year-old children in New Hampshire. The DOE also oversees early childhood teacher licensure endorsement for birth through grade three. The New Hampshire Early Childhood and After School Professional Development System at the New Hampshire DHHS Child Development Bureau offers voluntary credentials and endorsements for professionals serving young children and their families. A variety of stakeholders are collaborating to align birth-through-age-8 efforts, including DHHS, DOE, and the Spark New Hampshire Early Childhood Advisory Council. These groups, along with private partners, collaborated to submit the state’s Preschool Development Grant Application, which, although unsuccessful, will help guide future early childhood systems-building efforts in New Hampshire.

In 2005, the New Hampshire Early Learning Guidelines were introduced. The guidelines address development and learning for children birth through age 5 years covering: physical development, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, creative expression and aesthetic development, communication and literacy development, and health and safety. The guidelines are aligned with both New Hampshire’s K-12 Curriculum Frameworks and New Hampshire Kindergarten Readiness Indicators. The new Early Learning Standards, released in 2015, align with the New Hampshire College and Career Ready Standards, by expanding to include emergent literacy, early numeracy, and science and social studies.

The New Hampshire Quality Rating and Improvement System, administered by the Child Development Bureau within the Department of Health and Human Services, is presently under revision. Categories of standards in the proposed revision include: Curriculum, Environment, and Assessment; Engaging Families and Communities as Partners; Early Childhood Administrator and Educator Qualifications; and Measured Standards of Environmental Quality and Teacher-Child Interactions using the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) and Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), respectively.
**ACCESS**

Total state program enrollment .........................................................0
School districts that offer state program .............................................NA
Income requirement ............................................................................NA
Hours of operation .............................................................................NA
Operating schedule...............................................................................NA
Special education enrollment ............................................................2,072
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .............................................1,301
State-funded Head Start enrollment ....................................................0

**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 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.