The state of South Dakota addresses early childhood education in several ways, although the state does not provide state-funded pre-K as defined in this report. The Department of Education houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office and has authority for the Birth to Three early intervention program and early childhood special education. Within the Department of Social Services, the Division of Child Care Services is responsible for licensing early childhood programs, and administers direct child-care assistance payments to low-income families. The South Dakota Bright Start Initiative began in 2011 to ensure Native American children get a sound start in life, focusing on infant brain development and early childhood development.

The University of South Dakota, with support from the Department of Education’s Head Start-State Collaboration Office and multiple stakeholders, designed the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines to be used in all settings that include children 3 to 5 years of age. Aligned with the South Dakota Content Standards for Kindergarten, which are part of the K-12 State Standards incorporating the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics, the Guidelines address many domains. These domains include: social-emotional development and approaches toward learning, language and literacy, mathematics, science, health and physical development, creative arts, and social studies. Currently, the Guidelines are being enhanced to encompass children birth through age five.
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 ....................................................... 1,447
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ..................................... 3,770
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.