While Utah did not have a state-funded pre-K program meeting the criteria of this report in 2014-2015, in 2014 the state approved future investment in some early learning programming through a partnership between businesses and the state. The Utah High-Quality School Readiness Initiative (HB96) was signed by Governor Herbert, allowing the newly created School Readiness Board to enter into results-based financing contracts with private entities to fund proven high-quality early childhood education programs to serve at-risk students. The bill also creates grant funding for existing public and private early education programs to increase quality, and funds independent evaluation. The bill details components of high-quality programs as well as home-based educational technology programs that may enter into a results-based contract with the Board. The initiative began serving children in the 2014-2015 school year.

In 2012, the state of Utah adopted the Early Childhood Core Standards, which cover multiple domains including: physical wellbeing and motor development, social-emotional development, approaches toward learning, language development, and cognitive and general knowledge. Revised standards were adopted in 2013 and provide strategies and activities aligned with these domains. The State Board of Education will establish a timeline for further review of core curriculum standards for early childhood education.
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 .................................................. 5,960
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ................................. 5,656
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.