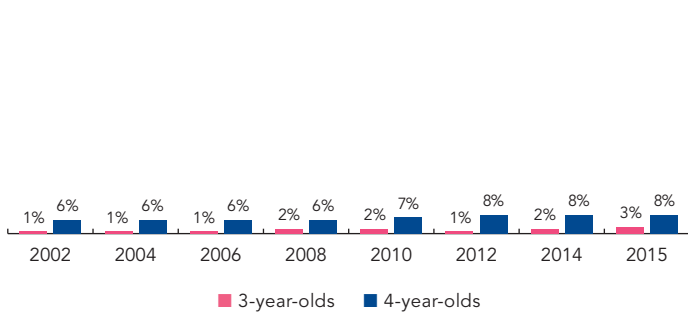


Washington

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED* (2015 DOLLARS)



The Washington State Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) was created in 1985 with the intention of creating safe, healthy, and nurturing learning experiences for the state’s 3- and 4-year-old citizens. Overseen by the Washington Department of Early Learning (WDEL), ECEAP is offered in 36 of the state’s 39 counties. ECEAP is operated by educational service districts, school districts, nonprofit organizations, local governments, and community colleges. Funding is awarded through a competitive process. Notably, among the three counties in which ECEAP is not offered, Head Start serves preschool-aged children in two of these counties and the other is very sparsely populated.

ECEAP serves 3- and 4-year-olds from families with incomes at or below 110% of the federal poverty level. Approximately 26% of the 2014-2015 ECEAP children were 3-year-olds. Children with IEP are eligible to be enrolled, regardless of income. Up to 10% of all children enrolled in ECEAP may be over the income cutoff if they have at least one other identified risk factor that may affect her/his development, learning, and success in school.

In 2014-2015, Washington State invested a total of \$83 million in ECEAP, with approximately \$76 million of these funds coming from state dollars (via the state general fund and the “opportunity pathways account,” which is derived from lottery revenue). This is a substantial increase from the 2013-2014 year, when total state spending on ECEAP was just over \$58 million. The increase was authorized by the legislature for the purpose of expanding services to an additional 1,350 children and increasing the rate paid per child from \$6,980 to \$7,578. Notably, continuing its commitment to young children in WA, the legislature also funded an additional 1,600 slots for the 2015-2016 school year.

Washington continues to focus on fostering high-quality early learning experiences for young children via ECEAP. As of 2014-2015, all ECEAP programs are required to participate in the state’s QRIS, called Early Achievers, and rate at either a level 4 or 5 by March of 2016. As part of Early Achievers, structured observations of classroom quality are conducted every three years using the ECERS and CLASS. Children’s development is assessed three times per school year using Teaching Strategies GOLDTM.

ECEAP serves children from diverse backgrounds, including children who are dual language learners. Approximately 29% of 4-year-olds served and 24% of 3-year-olds served come from homes in which English is not the primary language.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
32	19

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
8	7

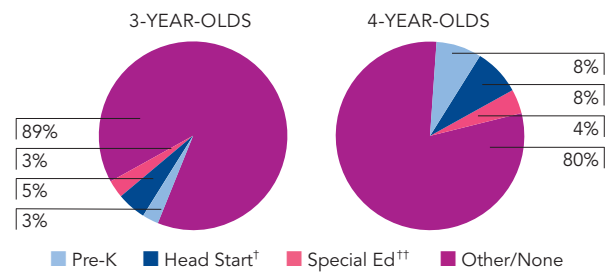
POLICIES TO SUPPORT	
DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS	WORKFORCE
✓	—

WASHINGTON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECEAP)

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	10,091
School districts that offer state program	92% (counties/parishes)
Income requirement	110% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally
Operating schedule	School year (part- and full-day); Calendar year (extended-day)
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	8,482
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	11,286
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	340

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	AA	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	30 quarter credits in ECE (Birth-age 8)	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA or 12 credits in ECE	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	15 hours/year	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision; hearing; height/weight/BMI; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	At least breakfast or lunch ¹	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

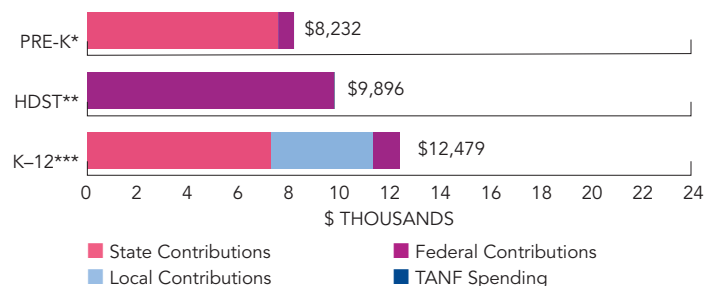
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$76,676,973
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	Not reported
State spending per child enrolled	\$7,599
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$8,232

* 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 Contractors offering sessions lasting less than three hours must provide a breakfast or lunch. An additional snack or meal must be offered when round-trip transportation extends the time children are away from home by an hour or more. Contractors providing sessions lasting three or more hours must provide breakfast or lunch and provide a snack.