Wyoming is one of the states that does not offer a state-funded pre-K program, but the state does have a number of programs aimed at supporting early childhood education, though collaboration is limited. Several programs through the University of Wyoming, community colleges, and school districts are licensed by the Department of Family Services (DFS), alongside numerous private preschool and child care facilities providing academic instruction. Accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) can be pursued and many programs, both licensed and non-licensed by the state, do so. A portion of Title I funds can be used for early childhood education by school districts, though this information would not be reported to the state. A number of developmental preschools are administered and funded through the Department of Health. TANF dollars through DFS are used to fund 13 schools in Wyoming, though funding and administration of the program occur through the Wyoming Department of Education. A competitive grant process awards these funds and provides high-quality preschool services to children whose families qualify for TANF (at or below 185% FPL), starting at age 3. The Wyoming State Legislature appropriated $665,000 through the 2014 budget for an Early Childhood Community Partnership Grant program for developing, enhancing, and sustaining high-quality early childhood education programs. The Wyoming Department of Family Services has been charged with administering these grant funds.

Created in 2010, the Wyoming Early Childhood State Advisory Council is a collaboration of a number of individuals from different disciplines. The council’s mission is to serve Wyoming children and families by facilitating statewide collaboration, evaluating the early childhood system, and making recommendations to the governor, lawmakers, and state agencies. Children with special needs and services are a focus of the Early Intervention Council.

The comprehensive Wyoming Early Learning Foundations were adopted in 2012. They cover multiple domains: physical well-being/motor development, social/emotional development, approaches toward learning, language development, and cognition and general knowledge.
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 ..........................................................1,910
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .............................................1,546
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.