The District of Columbia has provided funding for prekindergarten programs since the 1960s. The D.C. Public Pre-Kindergarten program as it now exists serves students in schools run through D.C. Public Schools (DCPS), community-based organizations (CBOs), and charter schools authorized by the D.C. Public Charter School Board (PCSB). The Pre-Kindergarten Enhancement and Expansion Amendment Act, passed in 2008, aims to provide high-quality, universally available prekindergarten education services through a mixed delivery system across all education sectors. The distribution of program funds by the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is based on a per-pupil funding formula with additional funds for serving children who receive special education services or are English Language Learners. Charter schools receive a separate facilities allowance per child.

DCPS piloted blended classrooms that enroll pre-K students funded through various sources in the pre-K program during the 2010-2011 school year. Additional freedom was also granted to non-public providers to manage their own contracts for technical assistance and comprehensive health service consultations.

The PCSB provides oversight to participating pre-K programs in charter school settings, referred to here as the D.C. Public Charter School Pre-K. Charter schools participating in the public school program must meet the standards set by the Pre-Kindergarten Enhancement and Expansion Amendment Act, though they have autonomy as granted by the School Reform Act to design their educational program according to their charters. For the 2012-2013 year, DCPS is piloting a new accountability system called the Early Childhood Performance Management Framework (PMF). Outcomes on assessment data are collected through the schools’ accountability plan and Early Childhood PMF. Additionally, PCSB is piloting the usage of CLASS for pre-K site observations. Since the nature of charter schools allows for individual schools to set their own goals, charter schools in D.C. are profiled separately in this report from programs run by DCPS and CBOs to allow for more accurate reporting.

To increase availability of services, D.C. has sought to align early learning programs that include district-funded preschool and pre-K, Head Start, and special education. Efforts have been made to unduplicate enrollment figures presented in this report.

The District of Columbia has the unique situation of being a city that is not within a state. To be inclusive, we indicate how the District compared to the states. For example, as indicated by the “1*” ranking here and elsewhere in the report, when D.C. is compared to the states, it has a higher percentage of children enrolled at ages 3 and 4 and a higher expenditure per child than any of the states.

* While Washington, D.C. is not a state but a city with a unique status as our nation’s capital, to be inclusive we indicate how D.C. ranks compared to the 50 states.
DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Total district program enrollment .............................................. 11,267
Total district spending ........................................................... $157,440,000
District spending per child enrolled ........................................... $13,974
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................. $14,938

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT
AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

Pre-K: 24%
Head Start: 7%
Special Ed†: 6%
Other/None: 8%

3-YEAR-OLDS
92%
8%

4-YEAR-OLDS

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

DC PGMS* ................................................................. $14,938
HDST** ................................................................. $6,606
K-12*** ................................................................. $18,075

$ THOUSANDS

District Contributions
Federal Contributions

* 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 2011-2012 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past year’s 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 ’11-’12 school year, unless otherwise noted.
† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.
D.C. PUBLIC PRE-KINDERGARTEN (DCPS & CBOs)

ACCESS
Total district program enrollment .................................................5,827
School districts that offer state program ...........................................100%
Income requirement .................................................................None
Hours of operation .................................................................6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule .................................................................Academic year
Special education enrollment .........................................................852
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4 ......................................2,645
District-funded Head Start enrollment ..............................................0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>DISTRICT PRE-K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree ......................................</td>
<td>BA (public and nonpublic)</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training ....</td>
<td>EC Certification (public); AA (nonpublic)</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher.................. AA, 48 credits, or para-pro exam (public);</td>
<td>CDA (nonpublic)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service ..................</td>
<td>5 days/1 year (DCPS); At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size ..................................</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds ........................................</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds ........................................</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio ...................................</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds ........................................</td>
<td>2:16</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds ........................................</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/referral Health; and support services</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals ............................................... Breakfast and lunch</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring ........................................ Site visits and other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES
Total district pre-K spending ..................................................$157,440,000
Local match required? .................................................................No
District spending per child enrolled ........................................ $13,974
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $14,938

* 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 2011-2012 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 '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 Some duplication may exist in enrollment counts for the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program and federal Head Start although that amount is unknown.
2 Teachers in public settings are required to have a BA with early childhood certification. Teachers in nonpublic settings, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), are required to have at least an associate degree in child development, early childhood education, or child and family studies, and must be enrolled in a bachelor’s degree program and on track to receive the degree by September 1, 2017.
3 Public school assistant teachers must have an associate degree or 48 college credit hours or have passed the paraprofessional exam, which is a basic skills test and so does not meet this benchmark. It is not required that the degree be in ECE. Nonpublic assistant teachers must hold at least a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and be enrolled in an associate degree program and on track to receive the degree by September 1, 2017.
4 Health exams are provided directly in some, but not all, programs. All students must have a completed DC Universal Health Certificate. Support services include annual parent conferences (plus one annual home visit for Head Start programs), parent involvement activities, and transition to kindergarten activities. Other support services are determined locally.
5 While the program does require site visits for both DCPS and CBO settings, there is no guarantee that programs receive a visit on the schedule required for this benchmark. Based on further clarification, this policy does not meet NIEER’s requirement.
6 Spending amounts include district-level funding for the D.C. Pre-K Program across all DCPS, Charters, and CBOs, totaling $157,440,000. Spending is based on the per-pupil funding formula of $11,986 per 3-year-old and $11,629 per 4-year-old with adjustments for special education and limited English proficiency students. DCPS also spends $10,870,000 in Head Start funds.
**D.C. PUBLIC PRE-KINDERGARTEN (CHARTER)**

**ACCESS**

- Total district program enrollment: 5,382
- School districts that offer state program: 100%
- Income requirement: None
- Hours of operation: Determined locally
- Operating schedule: Academic year
- Special education enrollment: 852
- Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4: 2,645
- District-funded Head Start enrollment: 0

**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service</td>
<td>Determined locally</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>❌</td>
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<td>Determined locally</td>
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<td>Determined locally</td>
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<td>❌</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Determined locally</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>❌</td>
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<td></td>
<td>❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td>Determined locally</td>
<td></td>
<td>❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/referral</td>
<td>Health, dental; Vision, hearing, health; and support services</td>
<td>at least 1 support service</td>
<td>❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits and other monitoring</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESOURCES**

- Total district pre-K spending: $157,440,000
- Local match required: No
- District spending per child enrolled: $13,974
- All reported spending per child enrolled: $14,938

**SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPENDING</th>
<th>DC*</th>
<th>HDST**</th>
<th>D.C. PUBLIC PRE-KINDERGARTEN (CHARTER)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ THOUSANDS</td>
<td>$14,938</td>
<td>$6,606</td>
<td>$157,440,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K</td>
<td>Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Ed†</td>
<td>Other/None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† All special education children are in district-funded pre-K.

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1. DC Public Charter Schools that are “chartered” to offer preschool and/or pre-K must have approval by their charters from the DC Public Charter School Board to open a preschool or pre-K classroom.
2. Programs must offer at least 180 days or 900 hours of instruction per year. Most programs are 5 days per week, although some offer a longer school day to accommodate a half day for professional development around a 4.5 days per week school schedule.
3. PCBSB can only regulate lead and assistant teacher degree requirements for schools that accept Title I funds, which must require lead teachers have a BA and assistant teachers have an AA. All but one charter school in the 2011-2012 year received Title I funds. Each LEA can determine specific requirements/specialty of the degree, though child development, early childhood education, and/or child/family studies is preferred. Charter schools that receive additional funds from the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) must abide the OSSE policy that any lead teacher without a BA must have it by 2014 and any assistant teacher must have an AA by 2014.
4. screenings for vision, hearing, and psychological/behavioral are locally determined. Support services include health services for children, referral for social service, and parent handbook outlining school policies.
5. Most programs also provide breakfast and snack.
6. Charter school are visited by DCPCSB as per its PDR schedule, but visits are not specifically guaranteed for pre-K classrooms. Based on further clarification, this policy does not meet NIEER’s requirement.
7. Spending amounts include district-level funding for the D.C. Pre-K Program across all DCPS, Charters, and CBOs, totaling $157,440,000. Spending is based on the per-pupil funding formula of $11,996 per 3-year-old and $11,629 per 4-year-old with adjustments for special education and limited English proficiency students. DCPS also spends $10,870,000 in Head Start funds.