E. The State Preschool Program was provided with $303.8 million in state funds to support a total of 96,685 slots during the 2003–2004 school year. However, because some contractors lacked staff or facilities to fill all of their slots, approximately 15,000 children were enrolled and not all of the funds were spent on preschool.

An additional early childhood initiative was approved in 1998 through the California Children and Families Act. Also known as First 5, this initiative established a dedicated tobacco tax to fund programs promoting early childhood development, from prenatal care to age 5. First 5 funds are allocated by county commissions and may be used for services including early care and education, parent education, family support, or child health needs. California also reserved $200 million over four years for a School Readiness Initiative.

**California**