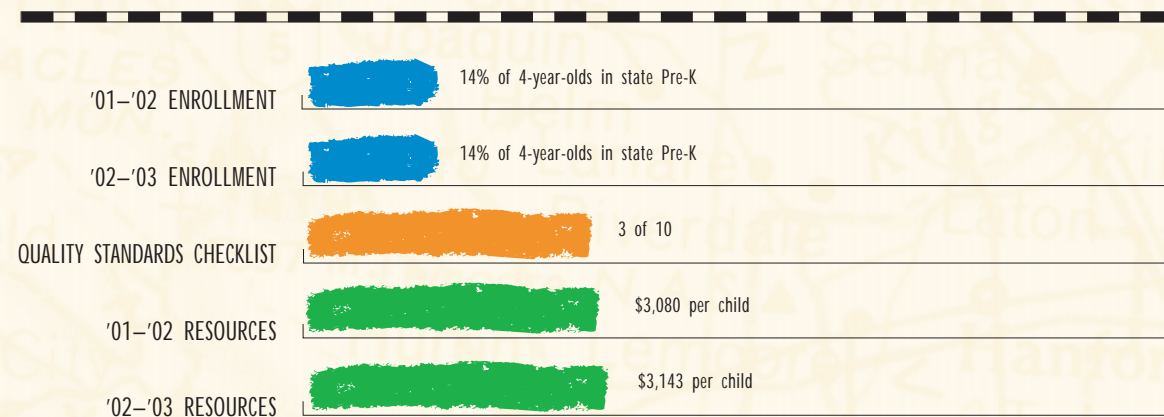


California



California's State Preschool Program was established in 1965 and serves children between the ages of 3 and 5 from low-income families. In determining eligibility, priority is given to preschoolers who have been abused or neglected. Other preschoolers who may be eligible due to at-risk status include children with limited English skills or who are not proficient in English, children who have exceptional needs, and children whose family circumstances "may diminish opportunities for normal development." Programs are funded through competitive grants and are administered by school districts, colleges, community action agencies, and private nonprofit agencies. The State Preschool Program is viewed by California administrators as one of several state early childhood programs that are designed to meet the varied needs of children and families and that together comprise a broader child development system. The state coordinates its Preschool Program, which supports part-day classes, with federally and state-funded child care assistance programs to help families working full time cover the cost of extended hours of care.

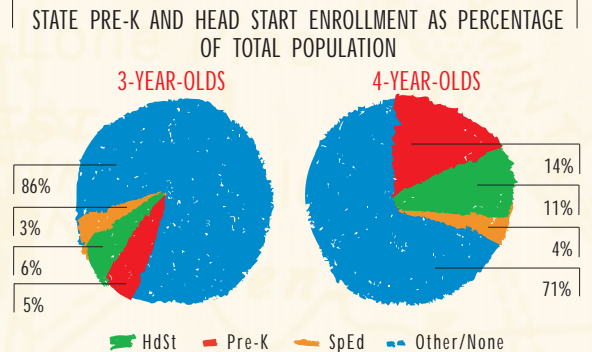
In 2002–2003, California's State Preschool Program received \$310,183,000 in state funds, and served an estimated 98,690 children.

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



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	100,000 ¹
School districts that offer state program	27% ²
Income requirement	60% SMI ³
Hours of operation	Half-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	33,610
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	88,808
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0



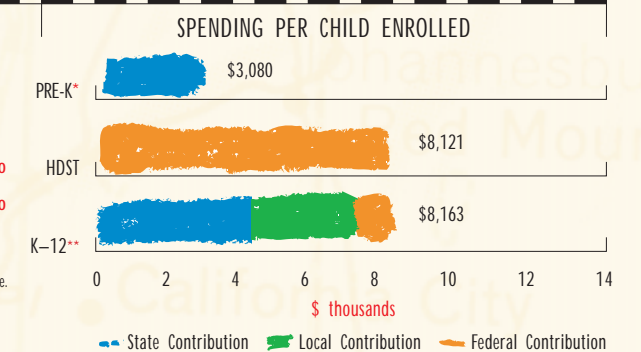
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Not comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	CD Teacher Permit	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	24 cr. in ECE and 16 cr. in Gen. Ed.	Specializing in EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	CD Asst. Tch Permit (6 cr. in ECE or CD) ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	None	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit ⁵		
4-year-olds	No limit ⁵		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:8		
4-year-olds	1:8		
Screening/referral requirements	Health only ⁶	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	Family referral services and 2 parent conferences ⁷	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	None ⁸	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$308,023,000 ⁹
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,080
State spending per 3-year-old	\$158 ¹⁰
State spending per 4-year-old	\$437 ¹⁰



* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
 ** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '01-'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- This figure represents the number of funded slots in the part-day General State Preschool Program only. California also funds slots in a variety of full-day center-based child care programs as well as the General Full-Day State Preschool Program. These programs meet the same types of standards as the General State Preschool Program. Approximately 35,100 slots for 3- and 4-year-olds were available in the state's General Child Care Program during 2001–2002.
- All school districts in the state are eligible to apply to provide State Preschool. Programs are administered through school districts, colleges, community action agencies and private nonprofit agencies. In 2001, there were 476 agencies with State Preschool programs.
- Maximum income requirements for different types of families are tied to specific dollar amounts rather than a set percentage of SMI. During the 2001–2002 program year, these dollar amounts represented approximately 60 to 74% of SMI, depending on family size.
- California also offers an Associate Teaching Permit, which requires a minimum of 12 credits in early childhood education or child development.
- Class size is typically limited to 24.
- A physical exam is required for entry into a program. Health and social service follow-up is required to meet family needs.
- Programs identify child and family needs, then refer families to appropriate agencies when possible.
- Most programs participate in the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program. Programs are reimbursed for up to 2 meals per day plus a snack. Most providers serve either breakfast or lunch plus snacks.
- This figure represents spending for slots in the part-day General State Preschool Program only.
- California did not break its total enrollment figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, these calculations are estimates, based on proportions of enrollees who were ages 3 and 4 in states that served 3-year-olds and provided age breakdowns for 2001–2002.