Connecticut

Connecticut established the School Readiness program in 1997 to improve preschool access for 3- and 4-year-old children. The program serves children in any town with a priority school and any town in the 50 lowest wealth ranked towns in the state. School Readiness funds are allocated by the state directly to priority school readiness districts, but are awarded to other towns through competitive grants. School Readiness services can be provided through public schools, Head Start programs, and child care centers. In communities participating in the program, the chief elected official and the district school superintendent establish a School Readiness Council to provide direction to the local programs.

The School Readiness program offers different space types in order to accommodate working and non-working families. The space type options include full-day, school-day, and part-day. Full-day spaces are available 5 days per week, 7-10 hours per day for 50 weeks per year. School-day spaces are available 5 days per week, 6 hours per day for 180 days per year. Part-day spaces are available 5 days per week, 2 ½ hours per day for 180 days per year. At least 60 percent of children enrolled in the program must have a family income at or below 75 percent of the state median income.

Connecticut also has a Department of Social Services program that serves approximately 3,700 children up to age 5 with a total fiscal year 2008 spending of $46,934,814. Children may attend for free if their family household income is less than 75 percent of the state median income, but families are required to go through a redetermination of fee every six months so the fee could change for a family within a program year.

In 2007-2008, Connecticut also dedicated $5,500,000 million in state funds to supplement federal Head Start. These funds created approximately 450 additional slots and were also used to provide additional services, extend the program day and year, and support program quality enhancements.
## CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ......................... 8,699
School districts that offer state program .......... 38% (communities)
Income requirement ........................................ 60% of children must be at or below 75% SMI
Hours of operation ........................................... Determined by type of slot
Operating schedule ........................................... Determined by type of slot
Special education enrollment .............................. 4,764
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ............... 6,193
State-funded Head Start enrollment ...................... 489

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>STATE 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>CDA + 12 credits in EC</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>Meets CDA requirements</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>6 clock hours</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</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>20</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>1:10</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</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health, dental; and support services</td>
<td>at least 1 support service</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Depend on length of program day</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits and other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ......................... $62,465,669
Local match required? ..................................... No
State Head Start spending ......................... $5,500,000
State spending per child enrolled .................... $7,181
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......... $9,393

* 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 '07–'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 The state did not break enrollment into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds, so all age breakdowns are estimates using the averages from state programs that did have age counts.

2 There are four types of slots, including full-day (7-10 hours)/full-year (50 weeks/year); school-day (6 hours)/school-year (180 days/year); part-day (2.5 hours)/school-year (180 to 250 days/year); and extended-day (slots that extend the hours, days, and weeks of a non-School Readiness program to meet full-day, full-year requirements). All programs operate 5 days per week. Funding levels vary by the type of slot.

3 This figure is based on the federal PIR total of non-ACF-funded enrollment and the proportion of all enrollees who were ages 3 or 4.

4 The majority of public schools with School Readiness classrooms have a certified teacher present for at least 2.5 hours per day.

5 All school readiness staff must complete two annual trainings in early childhood education and one annual training in serving children with disabilities. They must

6 Programs are required to serve one snack to children who attend fewer than 5 hours per day and one snack plus one meal to children in class for 5 to 9 hours per day. Children attending more than 8 hours per day must be provided one snack and two meals or two snacks and one meal. Either the program or the parent may provide the food.

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

### 3-YEAR-OLDS

- Pre-K: 48%
- Head Start: 24%
- Special Ed: 1%
- Other/None: 27%

### 4-YEAR-OLDS

- Pre-K: 16%
- Head Start: 20%
- Special Ed: 1%
- Other/None: 63%

† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.