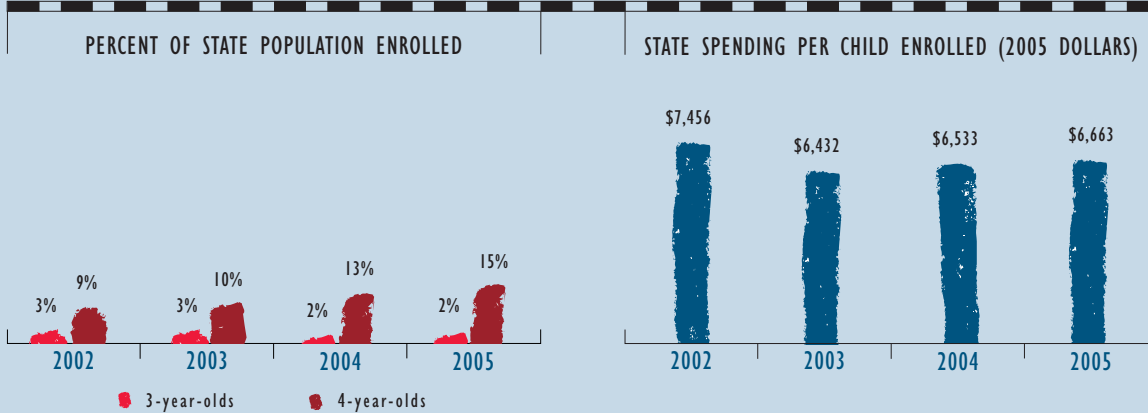


Connecticut



Since 1997, Connecticut has provided funds for School Readiness programs in priority districts and districts with severe-need schools. Priority districts receive an allocation of funds for prekindergarten programs, while funds for severe-need schools are awarded through a competitive grant process. Participating communities must establish School Readiness Councils that provide guidance to the chief elected official and the superintendent of schools on how to distribute the funds to individual programs. Programs are offered in accredited or state-approved public schools, private child care centers, and Head Start centers. Both 3- and 4-year-olds are served through the program.

At least 60 percent of available School Readiness slots in each community must be full-day, full-year slots, and 60 percent or more of enrolled children must come from families at or below 75 percent of the state median income. The state provides three additional types of slots to accommodate varying family needs—part-day, part-year slots; extended day slots; and, effective with the 2004–2005 school year, school-day, school-year slots. Regardless of the type of slot, the same teacher degree requirements and accreditation requirements are followed. Families participating in the School Readiness program are charged fees based on a sliding scale, although communities are allowed to exempt families in part-day programs from paying fees. The state also maintains a list of 23 types of family income that are not counted when assessing fees, such as rental subsidies and child support payments.

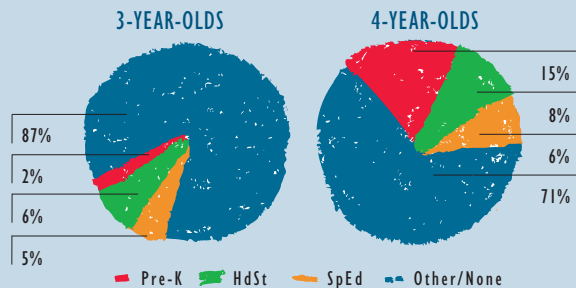
Connecticut has been moving toward making preschool available to all 3- and 4-year-olds by 2012. Among the steps that have been taken include a number of statewide meetings and forums and the formation of a Preschool Advisory Group by the State Department of Education. The governor has also instituted an Early Childhood Cabinet, which will focus on the achievement of universal preschool.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment - - - - - 7,297
 School districts that offer state program - - - 28% (communities)
 Income requirement - - - - - 60% of students
 must be at or below 75% SMI
 Hours of operation - - - - - Determined by type of slot ¹
 Operating schedule - - - - - Determined by type of slot ¹
 Special education enrollment - - - - - 4,879
 Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04 - - - - - 6,006
 State-funded Head Start enrollment - - - - - 346 ²

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

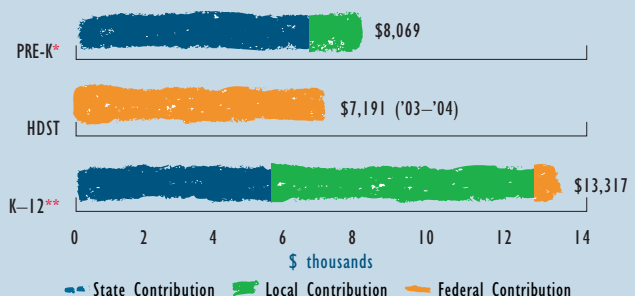
| POLICY | STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK? |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Early learning standards - - - - - | Comprehensive | Comprehensive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher degree - - - - - | BA, or CDA + 9 EC credits (public); CDA + 9 EC credits (nonpublic) | BA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher specialized training - - - - - | Cert. in N-K, or elem. w/Pre-K endorsement, or SpEd w/ Pre-K-12 endorsement (public); Meets CDA requirements (nonpublic) | Specializing in Pre-K | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Assistant teacher degree - - - - - | None ³ | CDA or equivalent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher in-service - - - - - | 75 CEUs/5 years (public), 1% of hours worked (nonpublic) ⁴ | At least 15 hours/year | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maximum class size | | 20 or lower | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3-year-olds - - - - - | 20 | | |
| 4-year-olds - - - - - | 20 | | |
| Staff-child ratio | | 1:10 or better | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3-year-olds - - - - - | 1:10 | | |
| 4-year-olds - - - - - | 1:10 | | |
| Screening/referral | Health; ⁵ | Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| and support services - - - - - | and support services ⁶ | At least 1/day | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Meals - - - - - | Depend on length of program day ⁷ | Site visits | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Monitoring - - - - - | Site visits and other monitoring | | |



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending - - - - - \$48,619,536 ⁸
 Local match required? - - - - - No
 State spending per child enrolled - - - - - \$6,663
 State Head Start spending - - - - - \$4,521,150 ⁹
 State spending per 3-year-old - - - - - \$163
 State spending per 4-year-old - - - - - \$970

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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 '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Types of slots include full-day, full-year (10 hours/day, 50 weeks/year); part-day, part-year (2.5 hours/day, 180 days/year); and extended-day (extends the hours, days and weeks of a non-School Readiness program to meet full-day requirements). The new school day, school-year slots operate 7 hours/day, 5 days/week, and 180 days/year. All programs operate 5 days per week, and about 75% of programs are full-day, though each community chooses its own specific combination of slots.
² Connecticut did not track the number of children served through its Head Start supplement. As a result, this figure is an estimate based on the number of non-federally funded children in Connecticut reported in Head Start's 2003-2004 Program Information Report, and proportions of Connecticut's Head Start enrollees who were 3 or 4 years old.
³ Assistant teachers must meet teacher requirements if acting in the capacity of lead teacher for part of the day. In full-day programs, assistant teachers generally act in a lead capacity for half of the program day and must meet the qualifications for lead teachers.
⁴ All staff in School Readiness programs participate in two trainings in ECE/CD and one training in serving children with disabilities. The 75 CEU requirement is additional for public school programs. For nonpublic settings, child care licensing regulations of 1% of total hours worked apply.
⁵ All children must have an annual well-child checkup that conforms to EPSDT standards. Most communities provide vision, hearing and dental checkups.
⁶ Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and written collaborative agreements with community agencies.
⁷ Programs are required to serve one snack to children who attend less than 5 hours per day and one snack plus one meal to children in class for 5 to 8 hours per day. Children on the premises 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 food for all meals.
⁸ This figure does not include \$10,475,367 in fees and subsidies collected at the local level.
⁹ The amount of the 2004-2005 state Head Start supplement was not available at press time. This figure is an estimate based on flat funding for the previous two fiscal years.