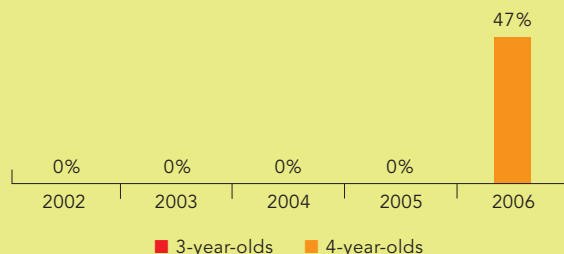
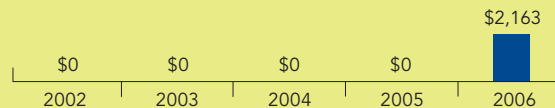


# Florida

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2006 DOLLARS)



Florida launched the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program in Fall 2005, as a result of a 2002 amendment to the state constitution requiring that preschool education be made universally available to all 4-year-olds whose families choose to enroll them. In its first year of operation, VPK was available across the entire state and served over 100,000 children.

Funding is distributed through Early Learning Coalitions to local providers that choose to participate and meet the minimum requirements. VPK services may be offered in licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, accredited nonpublic schools, accredited faith-based providers, and public schools. Families may enroll their children in any participating program that has space available. Families can also choose between a school-year program totaling 540 instructional hours or a summer program totaling 300 hours. There are some differences between the school-year and summer programs. For example, summer program teachers are required to be certified or have a bachelor's degree in specific areas, but school-year teachers only need to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) or equivalent credential.

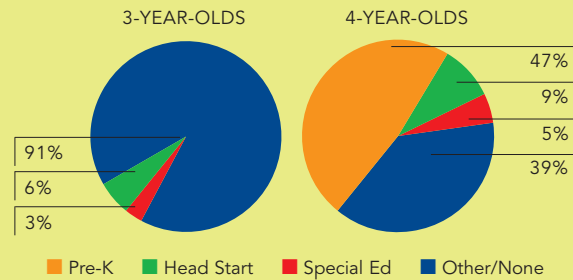
Another Florida initiative, the School Readiness Program, started in 1999 to consolidate governance of early learning programs at both the state and local level. The major programs incorporated into the new structure were the federally funded subsidized child care program, the State Migrant Prekindergarten Program, and the Prekindergarten Early Intervention Program. Through this initiative, local coalitions distribute federal and state dollars to support a broad range of early childhood programs and services. Data in this report focus only on the VPK program.

ACCESS RANKING-4s	ACCESS RANKING-3s	RESOURCES RANKING
4	None Served	35

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	105,896 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program .....	100% (counties)
Income requirement .....	None
Hours of operation .....	Determined locally <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Determined locally <sup>2</sup>
Special education enrollment .....	17,847
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	32,509
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	0

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



## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

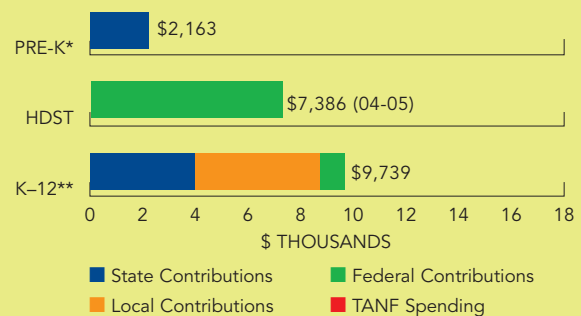
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA (summer); CDA or equivalent (academic year) <sup>3</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	See footnotes (summer); Meets CDA requirements (academic year) <sup>3</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	40 clock hours <sup>4</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	None <sup>5</sup>	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	10 (summer); 18 (academic year) <sup>6</sup>		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	1:10 <sup>6</sup>		
Screening/referral .....	Determined locally	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Determined locally	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET  
**4**

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$229,100,000
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$2,163
State spending per 3-year-old .....	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old .....	\$1,007

### 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 '05-'06 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> The total may contain a duplicate count of children served if a child enrolled at more than one coalition during the course of the year (e.g., a child moving location). About 90 percent of children were served in the school-year program and about 10 percent were served in the summer program.

<sup>2</sup> VPK programs may choose to operate a summer program, totaling at least 300 hours of service, or an academic year program, totaling at least 540 hours of service. The operating schedule and hours are determined locally, but most summer programs operate for 8 hours a day and most academic year programs operate for 3 hours a day.

<sup>3</sup> Teacher qualification requirements are different for the summer and academic year programs. Teachers in the summer programs are required either to be certified teachers in any area (with preference given to early childhood coursework or experience) or to have a BA in early childhood, primary or

preschool education, family and consumer science, or elementary education. Teachers in the academic year programs are required to have a CDA or equivalent with emergent literacy training.

<sup>4</sup> Assistant teachers do not have to meet any degree requirements, but must complete a 40-hour training for licensed child care providers.

<sup>5</sup> There are no specified in-service requirements for teachers. However, teachers with a CDA must have 10 hours of in-service per year for CDA renewal, and certified teachers must have 120 hours of in-service every 5 years.

<sup>6</sup> Summer programs have a maximum class size of 10 with one teacher. Academic year programs have one teacher for classes of up to 10 students, and must have a second staff member in classes of 11 students up to the maximum of 18 students.