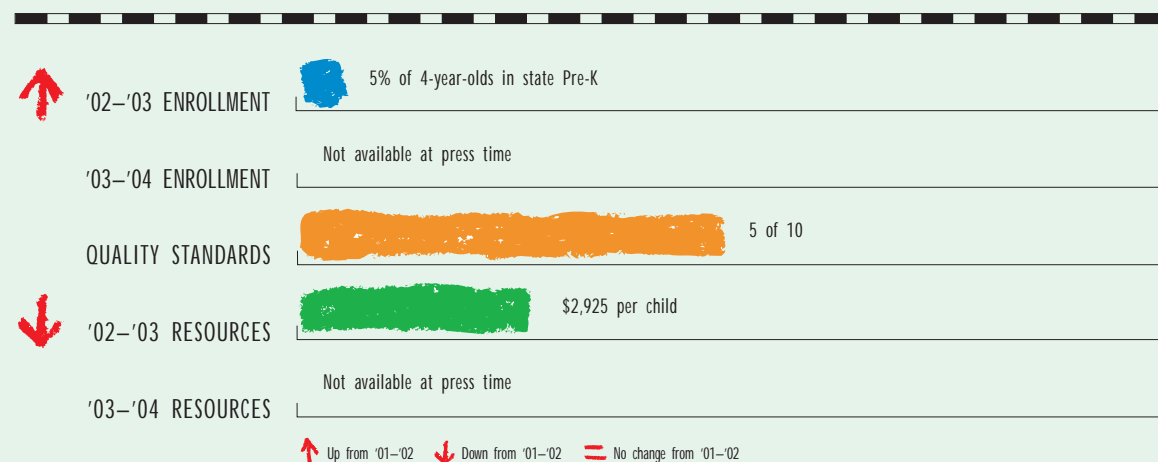


Iowa



In 1989, Iowa established *Shared Visions*, a comprehensive child development program that serves children between the ages of 3 and 5. Children from families with incomes below 130 percent of the federal poverty level must fill at least 80 percent of the available program slots. The remaining 20 percent of these slots may be filled based on secondary risk factors, with parents paying a fee based on a sliding scale. Low birth weight, developmental delay, homelessness, or having a parent who is a substance abuser or incarcerated are some of the risk factors considered for eligibility. Programs may operate from 3 to 10 hours per day, because agencies that receive competitive grants structure programs to meet community needs. Since 2000, a 10 percent reduction in state funds has resulted in shorter hours of operation for some programs. Grantees—public schools, Head Start centers, child care centers, and other nonprofit agencies—increasingly rely on in-kind services and local funds for support.

State funding for *Shared Visions* was \$6,868,353 in 2003–2004.

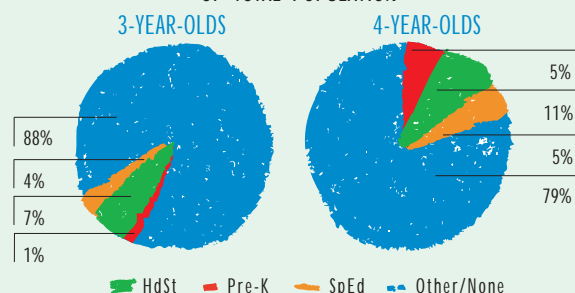
Grantee accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, development of Early Learning Standards, and training on the ECERS-R have all contributed to Iowa's efforts to enhance the quality of services for children and their families.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment - - - - - 2,355
 School districts that offer state program - - - - - 52% (counties)
 Income requirement - - 80% of children must be below 130% FPL
 Hours of operation - - - - - Determined locally ¹
 Operating schedule - - - - - Determined locally ²
 Special education enrollment - - - - - 3,241
 Federally funded Head Start enrollment - - - - - 6,437
 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?
Curriculum standards	Not comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA (public); AA for HdSt, None for child care (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training req.	Licensing in EE with EC endorsement (public), ³ None (nonpublic) ⁴	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	None ⁵	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	16		
4-year-olds	16		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:8		
4-year-olds	1:8		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision, hearing, and health ⁶	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	Support services ⁷	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	1 meal and snack ⁸	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL:

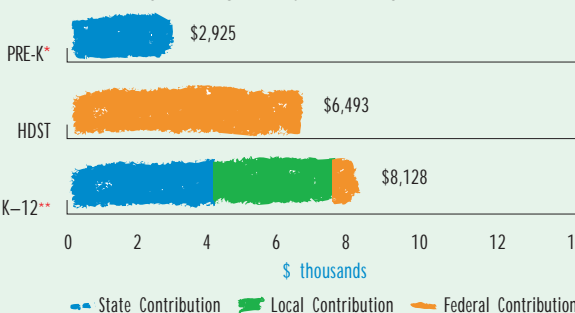
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RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending - - - - - \$6,887,531
 Local match required? - - - - - Yes, 20% of total grant amount
 State spending per child enrolled - - - - - \$2,925
 State spending per 3-year-old - - - - - \$39
 State spending per 4-year-old - - - - - \$133

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 '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- Grantees operate at least 3 but not more than 10 hours per day based on local need and the original grant submitted. Grantees operate an average of 4.74 days per week, and all operate at least 4 days per week.
- Grantees operate an average of 181 days per year.
- The early childhood teaching endorsement became a requirement in the 2002–2003 school year.
- Teachers in nonpublic schools are required to have a state license for child care.
- Although there is no specific amount of annual in-service professional development required, most grantees provide at least 15 hours per year, consistent with NAEYC recommendations.
- Although *Shared Visions* does not have specific requirements for screening and referral, applicants are required to address the types of screening and referral that will be provided. All *Shared Visions* programs provide screening and referral for vision, hearing, and health. LEAs also decide which developmental, dental, and nutrition services to provide.
- Support services include parenting support or training, at least two family nights, health services for children, information about nutrition, and referral to social services.
- The specific meal (breakfast or lunch) depends on the time of day during which children are present. All applicants for *Shared Visions* funding must address meal requirements in their grant applications.