The At-Risk Four-Year-Old Children Preschool Program began in 1998 and operates exclusively in public schools. The program uses state funding that includes tobacco settlement money and each local program receives a base allocation per child enrolled. The program serves at-risk children not eligible for Head Start as well as those who are eligible but not enrolled. Eligibility for the At-Risk Four-Year-Old Children Preschool Program is based on factors such as free lunch eligibility, developmental delay, English Language Learner or migrant status, referral from another agency, having a single or teen parent, or having a parent with low educational attainment.

Kansas also operates a separate Parents as Teachers (PAT) program for children from birth to age 3 and their families. To facilitate collaboration, state agencies serving young children share space and resources and work together to develop program and early learning standards and core competencies for staff.

Kansas is implementing several new initiatives during the 2006-2007 year. With support from the governor and business leaders, the state is piloting a limited-scale prekindergarten program without eligibility requirements. Also, the state is expecting to complete its Early Learning Standards, and will require teachers to review the standards for the 2006-2007 program year and align curricula to the standards in upcoming years. Kansas is also conducting a data collection project on prekindergarten classroom practices and their impact on student learning.
**ACCESS**

Total state program enrollment ........................................5,375
School districts that offer state program .........................................48%
Income requirement ..................................................130% FPL 1
Hours of operation .......................................At least 2.5 hours/day, 4 or 5 days/week
Operating schedule ........................................Academic year
Special education enrollment ........................................5,428
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .........................6,455
State-funded Head Start enrollment ................................0

**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>None</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>[✓]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized</td>
<td>4-year EE teaching</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>2-year degree</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>[✓]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service</td>
<td>Amount not specified</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>No limit 3</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No limit 3</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>No limit 3</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No limit 3</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/Screening</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health; and dental, and developmental; at least 1 support service</td>
<td>[✓]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support services</td>
<td>Support services</td>
<td>Support services</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Snack</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESOURCES**

Total state pre-K spending ...................................$13,728,825
Local match required? ........................................No
State spending per child enrolled .........................$2,554
State spending per 3-year-old ............................$0
State spending per 4-year-old ...............................$371

**SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED**

- **PRE-K**
  - State Contributions
  - Federal Contributions
  - Local Contributions
  - TANF Spending
  - $2,554

- **HDST**
  - State Contributions
  - Federal Contributions
  - Local Contributions
  - TANF Spending
  - $6,404 (04-05)

- **K-12**
  - State Contributions
  - Federal Contributions
  - Local Contributions
  - TANF Spending
  - $9,676

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1 Eligibility for free lunch is one of several risk factors used to determine eligibility for this program. Every child must have at least one risk factor.

2 The state is finalizing the Kansas Early Learning Guidelines for the 2006-2007 program year.

3 Although not mandated by the state, programs are encouraged to follow NAEYC recommendations and also limit class size to 15-17 students with two teachers.

4 Vision, hearing, and other general health screenings and referrals are not explicitly required but must be included as part of the grant proposal. The schools must explain in their proposals how they will provide comprehensive health services in order to receive funding. Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.