The At-Risk Four-Year-Old Children Preschool Program was established in 1998 and serves at-risk children not eligible for Head Start as well as those who are eligible but not enrolled. Eligibility for the program is based on factors such as developmental delay, having a single or teen parent, English Language Learner or migrant status, free lunch eligibility, or referral from another agency. Funds are provided exclusively to public schools, and no subcontracting is permitted. Programs receive a base allocation of state funds per child enrolled, with some of the support for the program coming from tobacco settlement money. A recent increase in state funding has allowed modest program expansion to the current total of approximately 6,000 slots.

The state provides a separate Parents as Teachers (PAT) program for families with children from birth to age 3. In an effort to promote collaboration, all Kansas agencies serving young children share space and resources. These agencies have worked together to develop core competencies for staff and common sets of standards.
ACCESS

Total state program enrollment - 5,900
School districts that offer state program - 43%
Income requirement - 130% FPL
Hours of operation - At least 2.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule - Academic year
Special education enrollment - 5,340
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03–'04 - 6,349
State-funded Head Start enrollment - 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY

Early learning standards - None
Teacher degree - BA
Teacher specialized training - 4-year elementary teaching certificate
Assistant teacher degree - 2-year degree
Teacher in-service - None
Maximum class size
3-year-olds - NA
4-year-olds - No limit
Staff-child ratio
3-year-olds - NA
4-year-olds - No limit
Screening/referral Vision, hearing, health, dental, and support services
Meals - Snack
Monitoring - Other monitoring

BENCHMARK

Comprehensive
BA
Specializing in Pre-K
CDA or equivalent
At least 15 hours/year
20 or lower
1:10 or better

DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?

PRE-K

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

3-YEAR-OLDS

4-YEAR-OLDS

87%
7%
6%

16%
10%
9%
65%

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending - $9,945,680
Local match required? - No
State spending per child enrolled - $1,686
State spending per 3-year-old - $0
State spending per 4-year-old - $270

PRE-K

$1,686

HDST

$6,345 ('03–'04)

K–12

$8,470

1 Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
2 K–12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.
3 Data are for the '04–05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

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 A review draft of the Kansas Early Learning Guidelines has not been finalized or adopted.
3 Although not mandated by the state, programs are encouraged to follow NAEYC recommendations and also limit class size to 15 students with 2 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 2 annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.