n order to serve at-risk children who were not eligible for Head Start, as well as those who were eligible but not enrolled, Kansas began the At-Risk Four-Year-Old Children Preschool Program in 1998. Eligibility criteria for the program include risk 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. This program has grown quickly, and served more than twice as many children during 2002–2003 as during the previous year. Programs receive a base of $1,800 per student in state funding, and are operated exclusively by public schools.

For families with children from birth to age 3, the state provides a separate Parents as Teachers (PAT) program. With an emphasis on collaboration, all Kansas agencies serving young children share resources and space and have worked together to develop sets of standards, as well as core competencies for staff.

In 2003–2004, the At-Risk Four-Year-Old Children Preschool Program served 4,959 4-year-olds and received approximately $11.5 million in state general revenue funds. This amount includes tobacco settlement money, which provides some of the funding for the program.

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment: 5,449

Income requirement: $19,525 or below for a family of three

### RESOURCES

Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

### QUALITY STANDARDS

- **Teacher degree requirement**: BA
- **Teacher specialized training requirement**: Elementary teaching certificate
- **Assistant teacher degree requirement**: 2-year degree or equivalent
- **Curriculum standards**: None
- **Teacher specialize training requirement**: Specializing in Pre-K
- **Staff-child ratio**: 1:10 or better
- **Operating schedule**: Academic year
- **Hours of operation**: Determined locally
- **Income requirement**: 130% FPL
- **Income level**: $19,525 or below for a family of three
- **School districts that offer state program**: 35%
- **Total state Pre-K spending**: $9,352,323

### RESOURCES PER CHILD ENROLLED

- **Spending per child enrolled**: $2,319 per child

### SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- **Spending per 4-year-old**: $2,319 per child
- **Spending per 3-year-old**: $0
- **Spending per child enrolled**: $1,721 per child

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility for free lunch (130% of poverty) is one of several risk factors considered sufficient to qualify a child for enrollment. This represents an income of $19,525 or below for a family of three during fiscal year 2002.