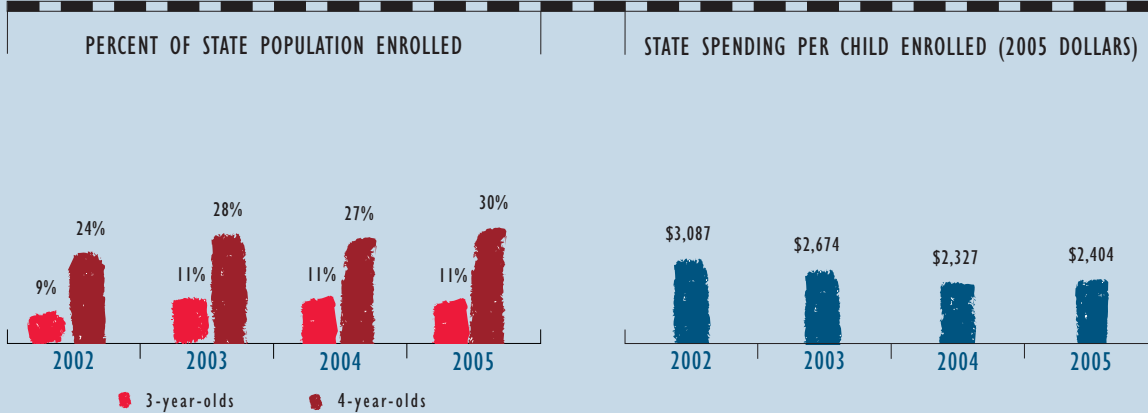


# Kentucky



The Kentucky Preschool Program was created in response to the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 to help public schools meet accountability standards. The program is offered to 4-year-olds who are eligible for free lunch, as well as all 3- and 4-year-olds in the state with disabilities. Nearly two-thirds of all participants had special needs in 2003–2004. State funding is distributed directly to all school districts, which may then contract with Head Start, private child care centers, and special education facilities to serve children. Many districts contribute additional funds when state funds are not sufficient. Special education funds from IDEA Part B are blended with preschool funds to serve children with special needs.

State funding for the program remained level from 2004–2005 to 2005–2006, but has decreased since 2001. With an additional 1,000 eligible children in 2005–2006, this results in the lowest per child funding in the history of Kentucky’s preschool program. In some districts, this has led to cuts in hours of service, extra meals, services for children from over-income families, and transportation of Head Start children.

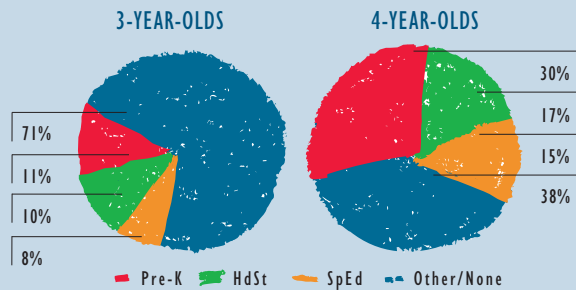
Kentucky has created the Building a Strong Foundation for School Success series, which includes the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards, the Kentucky Early Childhood Continuum Assessment Guide, and the Quality Self Study Guide. In 2004–2005, a system was implemented to ensure for the first time that all new teachers hold a bachelor’s degree and the Kentucky early childhood teaching certificate (birth to primary). Also, the state created a new Division of Early Childhood Development within the Department of Education. This division includes the state-funded preschool program, the KIDS NOW initiative and the Head Start collaboration office.



## ACCESS

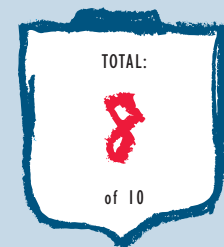
Total state program enrollment	-----	21,460
School districts that offer state program	-----	100%
Income requirement	-----	130% FPL <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation	-----	Determined locally <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule	-----	Academic year
Special education enrollment	-----	12,510 <sup>3</sup>
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	-----	14,759
State-funded Head Start enrollment	-----	0

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



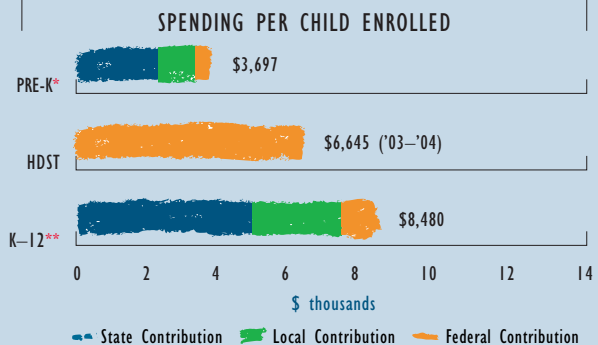
## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	----- Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	----- BA <sup>4</sup>	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	--- Interdisciplinary ECE certification <sup>4</sup>	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	----- HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	----- 4 days for certified teachers; 18 clock hours for CDAs or AAs	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size			
3-year-olds	----- 20	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4-year-olds	----- 20		
Staff-child ratio			
3-year-olds	----- 1:10	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4-year-olds	----- 1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	----- Vision, hearing, health, and developmental; and support services <sup>5</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	----- Breakfast or lunch	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	----- Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	-----	\$51,600,000
Local match required?	-----	No
State spending per child enrolled	-----	\$2,404
State spending per 3-year-old	-----	\$257
State spending per 4-year-old	-----	\$712



\* 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 '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- Children with disabilities are not required to meet an income requirement.
- Programs are required to operate for a minimum of 2.5 hours per day plus mealtime; local programs may elect to operate for more than 3 hours. The standard preschool program operates 4 to 5 days per week.
- Because the state Pre-K program is interrelated with the state special education program, it is not possible to provide a unique special education enrollment count for Kentucky. The estimates for special education enrollment include some children also counted in the totals for state Pre-K.
- As of the 2004-2005 program year, the degree and pre-service training requirement for new teachers was changed from a CDA to a BA and early childhood certification.
- Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and other services based on local need.