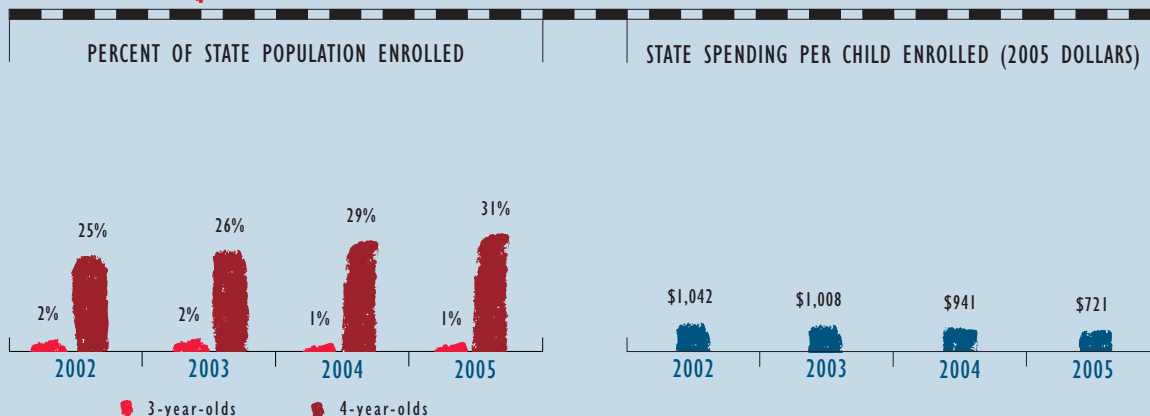


Maryland



The Extended Elementary Education Program began in 1979 as a pilot program in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County. It has subsequently developed into a state prekindergarten initiative, and is now referred to as the Prekindergarten Program, serving Maryland’s at-risk 4-year-olds. Eligibility criteria were recently revised by the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act, which also laid out a timetable for expanding access to prekindergarten. Beginning with the 2003–2004 program year, all school districts are required to provide prekindergarten to 4-year-old applicants who are homeless or eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Districts may also enroll other children based on secondary factors such as developmental delay in social, academic, health, language or other areas. The availability of prekindergarten sites is gradually being expanded to fulfill the requirement that all eligible 4-year-olds seeking enrollment will be accepted by the 2007–2008 school year. The state plans to significantly increase state aid money available to districts by 2007–2008, at which time discretionary funds for prekindergarten will be phased out. Coordination of funds from various state, federal and local sources is encouraged to help meet operating costs and expand available services.

Most programs are implemented by public schools, although some districts subcontract with Head Start and child care centers to provide services that meet Prekindergarten Program standards. The state expects to make greater use of settings outside of public schools as the program expands.

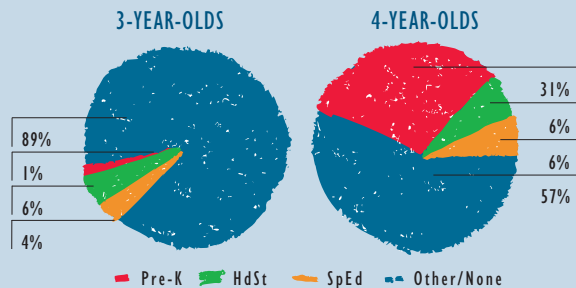
Maryland also augments the federal Head Start program, using state funds for extended-year and extended-day services as well as quality improvement. Another state initiative, the Judith P. Hoyer Early Care and Education Enhancement Program, received about \$8 million to support comprehensive early childhood centers that are based in or linked to schools. In addition, the state has drafted a 5 Year Action Plan to improve school readiness for all children entering kindergarten.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	23,380
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Hours of operation	2.5 hours/day, 5 days/week ¹
Operating schedule	10 months/year ¹
Special education enrollment	7,130
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	8,847
State-funded Head Start enrollment	159 ²

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

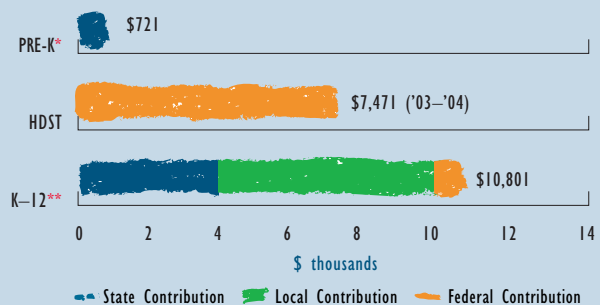
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Degree in EC + certification in N-3, -6, or -8, and must be licensed	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD or equivalent	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	6 credit hours/5 years ³	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3-year-olds - NA ⁴		
	4-year-olds - 20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3-year-olds - NA ⁴		
	4-year-olds - 1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Vision, hearing, health, immunization, and lead screening; and support services ⁵	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁶	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Determined locally	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$16,854,787
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$721 ⁷
State Head Start spending	\$3,000,000
State spending per 3-year-old	\$7
State spending per 4-year-old	\$224

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

- Programs in centers supported by Judith P. Hoyer funds must operate full-day, full-year programs in collaboration with child care centers.
- The state did not track the number of additional children served through its Head Start supplement. This figure is an estimate based on the number of non-ACYF funded children in Maryland reported in Head Start's 2003-2004 Program Information Report, and proportions of Maryland's federal Head Start enrollees who were 3 or 4 years old. Maryland's state Head Start funds were also used to improve program quality, and to extend the program year for 880 children.
- Some in-service requirements may be imposed locally. Also, all schools involved in the Prekindergarten Program have adopted the Maryland Model for School Readiness, which is aligned with Maryland Teacher Professional Development Standards. The model entails 5 days of training in teachers' first year, 4 days of training in their second, and 2-day institutes in a school-system-selected focus area for subsequent years. In addition, teachers must meet the requirements for "highly qualified" teachers under NCLB. New professional development standards went into effect in 2003-2004.
- By policy, 3-year-olds are not eligible, but state child care regulations require a maximum class size of 24 and a staff to child ratio of 1:10.
- Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, transition to kindergarten activities, and other locally determined services.
- Children in full-day programs are offered breakfast and lunch. In school-based, half-day programs, nutrition requirements for preschool children are determined locally and are consistent with meal programs available to older children in each school.
- This figure reflects Prekindergarten Program funds only. Districts may use other sources of state money, such as state-aid funds, to support Pre-K.