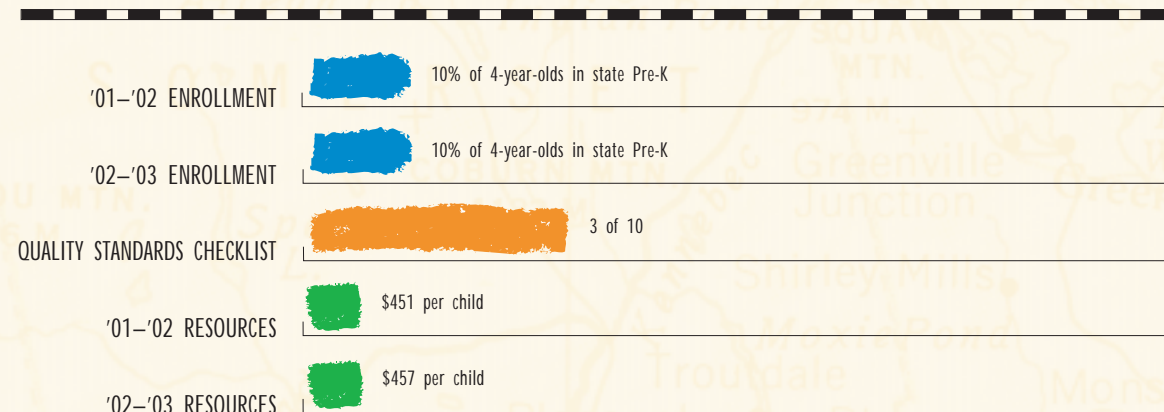


Maine



In 1983, the state Legislature passed a measure that established the Two-Year Kindergarten Program, making 4-year-olds eligible to enter the public schools. However, public schools are not mandated to offer kindergarten to 4-year-olds, and the program has remained relatively small. With encouragement from the State Department of Education, though, the program has doubled in size over the last five years. There are no income requirements, and access is determined by a public school's willingness to offer the program. Funding for prekindergarten is similar to K-12 funding in that schools are reimbursed through the state aid formula based on the average daily attendance.

In addition to Maine's commitment to the Two-Year Kindergarten Program, the state provided \$3,647,000 to supplement federal Head Start funding in fiscal year 2002.

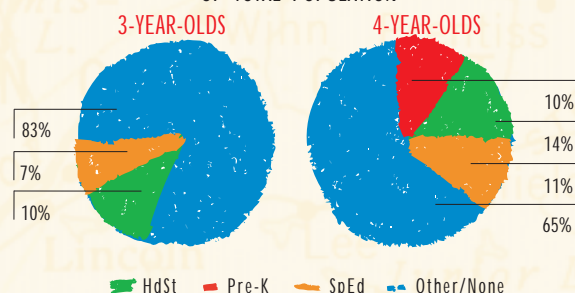
The Two-Year Kindergarten Program received \$658,088 in state funds for 2002-2003 and served 1,440 4-year-olds.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,440
School districts that offer state program	21% ¹
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	Determined locally ³
Special education enrollment	2,794
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	3,516
State-funded Head Start enrollment	Not reported ⁴

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

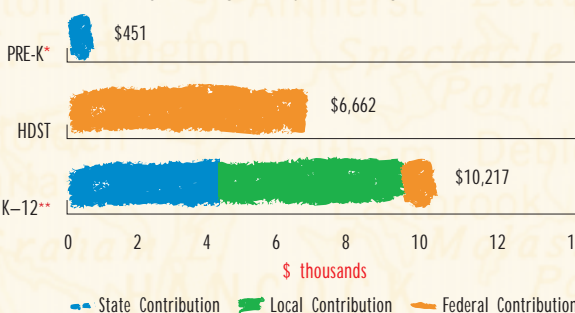
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	EC or elem. certification	Specializing in EC	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	30 credit hours	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	90 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	No limit		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:18		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision and hearing	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	None	At least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$650,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$451
State Head Start spending	\$3,647,000
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$44

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 '01-'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- The program is offered in 78 schools in 60 of 285 districts.
- Most programs operate for 2.5 hours per day. Many schools are moving toward a 4-day-per-week schedule with Friday used for parent outreach.
- Most programs offer services for the academic year.
- State funds for Head Start are used both to enhance services and to provide additional slots, although the specific number of slots was not reported.