One of Minnesota’s prekindergarten initiatives is embedded in the School Readiness Program, a comprehensive initiative that funds more than 22 types of services to help children enter school with the skills and family supports they need to succeed. These services include home visits, supplementary services for children with special needs, and transportation assistance. Parent education, which begins at birth in Minnesota’s Early Childhood Family Education statewide program, is continued in the School Readiness Program. The data included in this report pertain to prekindergarten-related services funded through the School Readiness Program.

In the School Readiness Program, funds flow to local school districts, and 83 percent of districts provide some half-day prekindergarten for 3- and 4-year-olds. Forty-eight percent of districts subcontract with Head Start. Program standards are determined locally and approved by the school board. Priority goes to children who are most at-risk, as determined by Minnesota’s mandatory child health and development screening targeting children ages 3 1/2 to 4. The School Readiness program provided some type of service to 40,047 children during 2002–2003, but the state was unable to specify how many of those children regularly attended a preschool program. In 2002–2003, this initiative received $9,477,948 in state funds.

A separate Minnesota initiative used $18,375,000 to provide an additional 2,496 state-funded Head Start slots in fiscal year 2002. Programs funded through this initiative follow the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards. The majority of these programs offer part-day services, four or five days per week, although about one-fifth offer full-day services. The state Legislature appropriated $18,375,000 for fiscal year 2003, although ultimately only $17,639,913 was made available for this initiative. These funds were used to support an enrollment of 2,446 children ages 3 to 5. Funding for this Head Start supplement was further reduced for fiscal year 2004.

Although most states have a single state-financed prekindergarten initiative, Minnesota makes significant contributions to prekindergarten through these two separate initiatives—the School Readiness Program and the state-funded Head Start model. As a result, we present summary information about the state’s overall commitment to prekindergarten by taking enrollment and state spending for both initiatives into account. Next, we present specific details about each initiative in the state. These first two pages of this profile reflect Minnesota’s combined commitment to prekindergarten through both the School Readiness program and state-funded Head Start programs. The next page focuses exclusively on the School Readiness Program, while the final page focuses exclusively on the state-funded Head Start program.
Data are for the '01–'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

**ACCESS**

- **State-funded Head Start enrollment:** 2,496
- **School districts that offer state programs:** 34
- **Newly offered:** NA
- **Hours of operation:** Determined locally
- **Special education enrollment:** 7,552
- **Remotely funded Head Start enrollment:** 924
- **State-funded Head Start enrollment:** 2,496

**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

- **Curriculum standards:** Comprehensive
- **Teacher degree requirement:** BA (public), CDA (nonpublic)
- **Teacher specialized training requirement:** Meets CDA requirements
- **Teacher in-service requirement:** At least 24 hours per year
- **Family support service requirements:** At least 1 service
- **Staff-child ratio:** 1:10 or better

**RESOURCES**

- **State-funded Head Start spending:** $18,375,000
- **State spending per child enrolled:** NA
- **Head Start spending per 3-year-old:** $3,912
- **State spending per 4-year-old:** $41
- **Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

**MINNESOTA STATE-FUNDED HEAD START MODEL**

- **Total state-funded Head Start enrollment:** 2,496
- **School districts that offer state programs:** 34
- **Newly offered:** 0
- **Hours of operation:** Determined locally
- **Special education enrollment:** 7,552
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**MINNESOTA SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM**

- **Total state program enrollment:** 6%
- **School districts that offer state program:** 98%
- **Newly offered:** NA
- **Hours of operation:** Determined locally
- **Operating schedule:** Determined locally
- **Special education enrollment:** 7,552
- **Remotely funded Head Start enrollment:** 924
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**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

- **Curriculum standards:** Comprehensive
- **Teacher degree requirement:** CDA or equivalent
- **Teacher specialized training requirement:** Vision, hearing and health
- **Family support service requirements:** At least 1 service
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