The Missouri Preschool Project (MPP) serves 3- and 4-year-olds in programs operating in public schools, private child care centers, and nonprofit agencies. Since 1998, funds have been provided from gaming revenues through the Early Childhood Development Education and Care Fund. A competitive grant process is used to award funds, and programs serving children with special needs or from low-income families are prioritized for grant awards. Local programs develop sliding payment scales, based on criteria such as free or reduced-price lunch eligibility, with the goal of providing access to all families, regardless of income.

New teachers hired after July 1, 2005 must have a bachelor's degree and specialization in early childhood, regardless of setting. In order to receive funding after fiscal year 2006, new grantees must also meet this requirement for their teachers. In addition, grantees are required to set aside at least 10 percent of their MPP funding to provide professional development opportunities for teachers working for other licensed programs within the same community.

**Access Rankings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-Year-Olds</th>
<th>3-Year-Olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources Rankings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Spending</th>
<th>All Reported Spending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31*</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In previous Yearbooks, only state spending was ranked.
MISSOURI PRESCHOOL PROJECT

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment..........................4,972
School districts that offer state program ............34%
Income requirement .................................................None

Hours of operation ........................................3 hours/day (half-day),
6.5 hours/day (full-day); 5 days/week
Operating schedule ............................................Determined locally
Special education enrollment ..........................8,604
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ..........15,335
State-funded Head Start enrollment .................0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT  BENCHMARK  DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?

Early learning standards ....................Comprehensive ..............Comprehensive  ✔
Teacher degree ....................................BA ..............BA  ✔
Teacher specialized ..................EC or ECSE certification in ..............Specializing in pre-K
training birth-grade 3, or 4-year CD degree  ✔
Assistant teacher degree ..............HSD + voc. cert. in ECE ..............CDA or equivalent  ✔
Teacher in-service ......................22 clock hours ..............At least 15 hours/year  ✔
Maximum class size ..................................20 or lower
3-year-olds ...........................................20  ✔
4-year-olds ...........................................20  ✔
Staff-child ratio .................................1:10 or better
3-year-olds .........................................1:10  ✔
4-year-olds .........................................1:10  ✔
Screening/referral ....................Support services only3 ............Vision, hearing, health; and
and support services at least 1 support service  ✔
Meals ...................................Depend on length of program day4 ..............At least 1/day  ✔
Monitoring ..........................Site visits and other monitoring5 ..............Site visits  ✔

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending............................$12,631,001
Local match required? ........................................No
State spending per child enrolled ..................$2,540
All reported spending per child enrolled* ...........$2,540

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PRE-K</th>
<th>HDST</th>
<th>K−12**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2,540</td>
<td>$7,482</td>
<td>$9,506</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 ’06−’07 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 Programs are funded through a competitive process and receive extra points for serving children with special needs or from low-income families.
2 Programs apply as either a full-day or half-day program. Programs operate on a school year or full year calendar.
3 Support services include parent involvement activities and transition to kindergarten activities.
4 Child care licensing requires full-day programs to offer lunch and two snacks and half-day programs to offer morning or afternoon snacks.
5 Annual site visits are provided by consultants employed by the state.