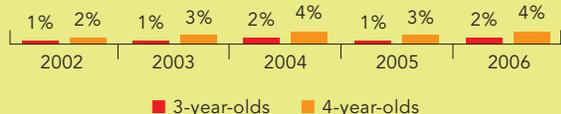
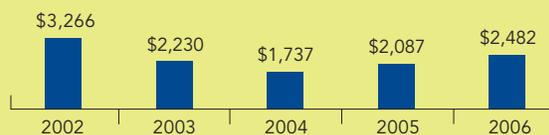


Nebraska

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2006 DOLLARS)



Nebraska's Early Childhood Grant Program grew out of a pilot program that started serving children in 1992, and was expanded through state legislation in 2001. The state provides funding to public schools and educational service units, but services are also offered through partnerships in settings such as private child care centers, family resource centers, and Head Start agencies. Nebraska requires collaborative funding efforts for the program, and all grantees are required to cover at least half of their program costs using other federal, state or local sources.

The Early Childhood Grant Program mostly serves 3- and 4-year-olds, although children may be served as early as 6 weeks of age. At least 70 percent of each program's funding must be used to serve children meeting at least one of four criteria set by the state. These priority areas are: children eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, English Language Learners, children born prematurely or with low birth weight, and children of teen parents who have not completed high school. A sliding payment scale is used for children who do not meet these risk factors.

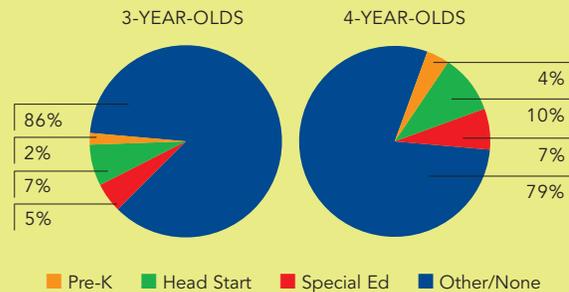
The state adopted the Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines in 2005, and will offer training to all state prekindergarten grantees in the use of these early learning standards. Nebraska passed legislation in 2005 allowing 4-year-olds in approved school-based prekindergarten programs to be included in the K-12 state aid formula.

ACCESS RANKING-4s	ACCESS RANKING-3s	RESOURCES RANKING
35	15	29

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,483 ¹
School districts that offer state program	8%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	2,732
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	4,146
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 ³	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Certification and EC endorsement	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	12 cr. hours in EC or equivalent	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	12 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Support services only ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Breakfast or lunch ⁵	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

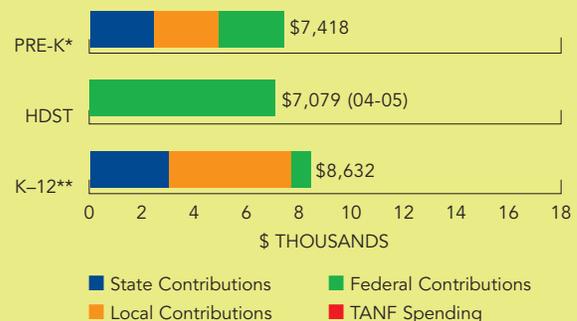
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

8

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$3,680,471 ⁶
Local match required?	Yes, 50% of total funding ⁷
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,482
State spending per 3-year-old	\$51
State spending per 4-year-old	\$90

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 '05-'06 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ This total includes 123 children younger than age 3.

² Programs are required to operate a minimum of 3.5 hours per day and 4 days per week. Full-day slots are funded for 6 hours per day and 5 days per week.

³ The Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines were released in 2005.

⁴ Support services include two parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, transition to kindergarten activities, and family development and support based on needs.

⁵ As of the 2005-2006 school year, programs were required to provide a meal.

⁶ Programs reported a total budget of approximately \$11,000,000, which includes various federal, state and local funding sources.

⁷ The local match requirement can be met using funds from special education, Title I, Head Start, Even Start, child care subsidies, local district funds, private grants and gifts, and parent fees based on a locally determined sliding scale.