**Nebraska**

Nebraska’s Early Childhood Pilot Project was established by legislation enacted in 1990 and implemented with very limited funding in 1992. In 2001, legislation expanded the Early Childhood Grant Program—which grew out of the earlier pilot project—and increased funding for additional classrooms. Schools and educational service units are eligible recipients of grants to fund up to 50 percent of the total program budget. Providers must obtain an equal or greater match from local, state, and federal sources. Providers are also required to offer inclusive programs and collaborate with other schools and community initiatives, including Head Start. Nebraska’s program primarily serves 3- and 4-year-olds, but some infants and toddlers participate as well.

Each grant program must target at least 70 percent of its grant funds to serve children who are eligible in at least one of the four priority areas identified by the state (from low-income families, English Language Learners, born to teen parents, who have not completed high school, born prematurely or at low birth weight). Up to 30 percent of funds may be used to serve children not in the priority areas, to encourage participation of children from different groups.

Nebraska has focused on building a collaborative, comprehensive system of professional development to improve the quality of care and education for young children. The Early Childhood Training and system of 14 Early Childhood Regional Training Coalitions serve the state by increasing access to training resources, and development of partnerships.

Funding for the Early Childhood Grant Program in 2002–2003 was $2,330,000 with 1,300 children enrolled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aged 3 Years</th>
<th>Aged 4 Years</th>
<th>Requires Aged 3 or 4 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
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**RESOURCES**

- **Total state Pre-K spending** - $1,300,000
- **Total state Pre-K enrollment** - 480
- **Federally-funded Head Start enrollment** - 4,120
- **Special education enrollment** - 2,271
- **Income requirement** - 2% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K
- **Teacher degree requirement** - BA
- **Teacher specialized training requirement** - ECE
- **Teacher in-service requirement** - 12 clock hours
- **Specialization in EC** - Yes
- **Family support service requirements** - At least 1 service
- **Health, family literacy, and identification of special needs** - Comprehensive
- **Vision, hearing, and health** - At least 1 service
- **Teacher degree requirement** - BA
- **Teacher specialized training requirement** - ECE
- **Teacher in-service requirement** - 12 clock hours
- **Maximum class size** - 20
- **Staff-child ratio** - 1:12
- **3-year-olds** - 20
- **4-year-olds** - 20
- **Pre-K** - Yes
- **Local match required?** - No
- **State funds up to 50% of cost, at least 1/day, at least 1/month**
- **Pre-K** - Yes
- **Local match required?** - No
- **State funds up to 50% of cost, at least 1/day, at least 1/month**
- **State Contribution** - $7,800
- **Local Contribution** - $4,100
- **Federal Contribution** - $4,100
- **State spending per child enrolled** - $2,708
- **State spending per 3-year-old** - $14
- **State spending per 4-year-old** - $41
- **State contribution** - $7,880
- **Local contribution** - $4,100
- **Federal contribution** - $4,100

**ACCESS**

- **State program enrollment** - 480
- **Income requirement** - 2% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K
- **Hours of operation** - Determined locally
- **Specialization in EC** - Yes
- **School districts that offer state program** - 2% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K
- **Teacher degree requirement** - BA
- **Teacher specialized training requirement** - ECE
- **Teacher in-service requirement** - 12 clock hours
- **Specialization in EC** - Yes
- **Family support service requirements** - At least 1 service
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**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

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<th>Local Match</th>
<th>Federal Match</th>
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<td>Non-comprehensive</td>
<td>BA or equivalent</td>
<td>ECE or equivalent</td>
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