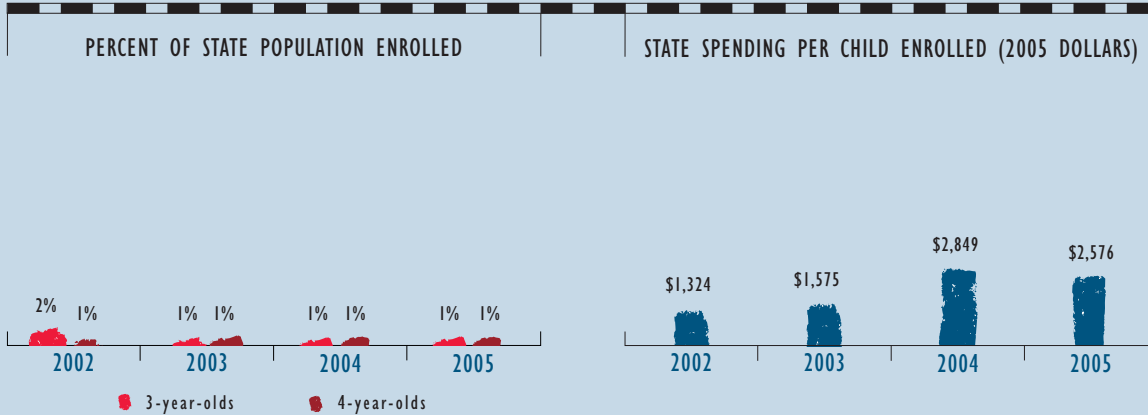


New Mexico



In 1991, New Mexico began appropriating funds for the Child Development Program, which provides prekindergarten as well as home visits, family support services, and other types of services for children from birth to age 5. The Child Development Program serves children at risk who do not qualify for other eligibility-based programs, with enrollment priorities based on local needs. This allows individual communities to target children with identified risks such as having a teen parent, having special emotional or mental health needs, being homeless, or having a family income below poverty.

Funding for prekindergarten is provided to public schools, private child care centers, and institutions of higher education. Participating programs are required to offer comprehensive services and work toward accreditation. The Child Development Program also funds home-based services such as the Parents as Teachers program and hospital-based services for high-risk infants.

All programs that children attend on a regular basis are required to use the Focused Portfolio System, which assists teachers in observing and documenting children's cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. Teachers also use the information from their observations in their communications with parents as well as to modify the curriculum and plan appropriate activities based upon individual children's strengths, needs and interests.

For the 2005–2006 year, funding for programs will be reduced by 6.6 percent because of budget shortfalls in the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD). One home-visiting program will no longer be funded and other programs may have to reduce services.

New Mexico also dedicated \$1.65 million in state funds to enhance services in federal Head Start classrooms.

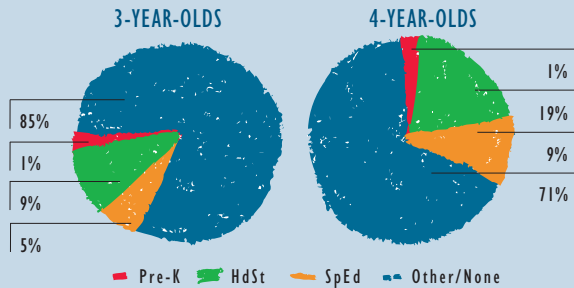
A new state-funded preschool initiative, New Mexico Pre-K, began serving children during the 2005–2006 school year. This program is designed to serve a larger number of preschoolers than the Child Development Program, and is targeted specifically to 4-year-olds. In 2005–2006, there were a total of 88 classrooms in 31 New Mexico Pre-K programs throughout the state. Funds are awarded competitively, with a total budget during 2005–2006 of about \$5 million in state funds.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	-----	396 ¹
School districts that offer state program	-----	15%
Income requirement	-----	None
Hours of operation	-----	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	-----	Determined locally ²
Special education enrollment	-----	3,798
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	-----	7,158
State-funded Head Start enrollment	-----	0

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



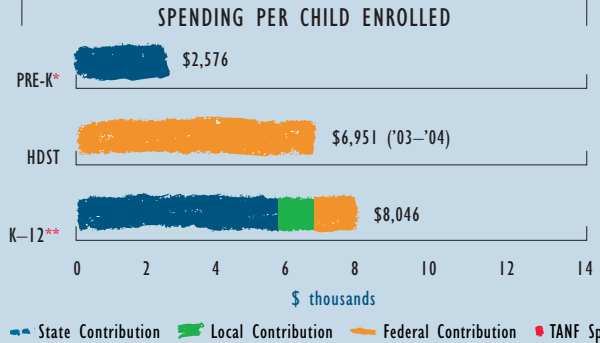
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	-----	None ³	Comprehensive <input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	-----	BA (public), 45-hour entry-level course (nonpublic)	BA <input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	-----	EC, EE, or SpEd license (public); None (nonpublic)	Specializing in Pre-K <input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	-----	Educational Assistant Licensure (public), None (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent <input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	-----	24 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size			20 or lower <input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	-----	24 ⁴	
4-year-olds	-----	24 ⁴	
Staff-child ratio			1:10 or better <input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	-----	1:12 ⁴	
4-year-olds	-----	1:12 ⁴	
Screening/referral	-----	Vision, hearing, health, and and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	-----	At least 1 meal ⁶	At least 1/day <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	-----	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	-----	\$1,019,900 ⁷
Local match required?	-----	No
State spending per child enrolled	-----	\$2,576
State Head Start spending	-----	\$1,650,000
State spending per 3-year-old	-----	\$15
State spending per 4-year-old	-----	\$24



* 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 '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- This figure does not include the 474 children from birth to age 3 who are also served in Child Development programs.
- Most programs are full day, full-week, although two school-based rural programs operate 4 days per week. School-based programs operate during the academic year, while community-based programs typically operate year round.
- In 2005, a draft was released of new Pre-Kindergarten Program Standards and Early Learning Outcomes. These learning outcomes will apply to the new Pre-K initiative and be used by the current Child Development programs that serve 4-year-olds.
- This requirement reflects child care licensing standards.
- Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and child assessments.
- Center-based programs that meet for at least a half-day session must provide meals. This applies to all of the Child Development programs that serve 3- and 4-year-olds.
- This figure represents an estimate of funding that supported 3- and 4-year-olds only, and does not include additional funds for children from birth to age 3.