The Nevada Early Childhood Education Comprehensive Plan (ECE) was established to fund new prekindergarten education programs in the state and to expand existing programs. Funding is available to school districts and community-based organizations—including family child care homes, private child care centers, and Head Start agencies—on a competitive grant basis. In order to receive funding, each provider must tailor a program to meet demonstrated needs of the host community and develop detailed eligibility criteria. All ECE programs are required to provide additional services to parents, including parenting education and opportunities for parent involvement. Program quality is controlled primarily through the competitive grant process rather than through explicit policy.

The ECE program provides services to children from birth to age 5 and most programs give priority to children from low-income families. All teachers must be licensed and are paid on the public school salary scale, regardless of program location.

Due to state budget constraints, 2003–2004 funding was decreased to $2,595,583, which supported services for 1,054 children. However, Nevada ECE showed a commitment to improving classroom quality by recommending programs follow NAEYC guidelines and pursue accreditation. The state will also implement new content standards for prekindergarten.

Nevada also provides funding for a separate program known as Classroom on Wheels (COW), which offers preschool opportunities for 3- and 4-year-olds through the use of buses refurbished as classrooms. Initially a grassroots effort to provide early childhood services to children from low-income families, COW has grown into a statewide program and is in the process of raising its standards to meet the same requirements as other state-funded preschools. All data in this report are specific to the Nevada Early Childhood Education Comprehensive Plan.

### ACCESS

- Total state program enrollment: 814
- 4% of 3-year-olds in state Pre-K
- 62% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K
- 13% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K
- **Meal requirement:** No
- **Screening/referral requirements:** Determined locally
- **Curriculum standards:** None
- **Federally funded Head Start enrollment:** 2,486

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree requirement</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No change from '01–'02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training requirement</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No change from '01–'02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>8:1 or less</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-teacher ratio</td>
<td>2:1 or less</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No change from '01–'02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required support services</td>
<td>Support services</td>
<td>Support services</td>
<td>No change from '01–'02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State spending per 3-year-old</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>No change from '01–'02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State spending per 4-year-old</td>
<td>$57</td>
<td>$57</td>
<td>No change from '01–'02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State spending per child enrolled</td>
<td>$3,686</td>
<td>$3,686</td>
<td>No change from '01–'02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESOURCES

- **Total state Pre-K spending:** $9,000,000
- **Local match required:** No
- **State spending per child enrolled:** $2,463
- **State spending per 3-year-old:** $25
- **State spending per 4-year-old:** $57

### EXPENDITURES

- K–12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

### POLICY

- **Total enrollment includes an estimated 88 children younger than 3 years of age who were enrolled during 2002–2003.**
- **State spending per 4-year-old:** $57
- **State spending per 3-year-old:** $25
- **State spending per child enrolled:** $3,686
- **Local match required:** No
- **Federally funded Head Start enrollment:** 2,486
- **Staff-child ratio:** 8:1 or less
- **Staff-teacher ratio:** 2:1 or less
- **Maximum class size:** 20 or lower
- **Teacher degree requirement:** BA
- **Teacher specialized training:** None
- **Required support services:** Support services
- **State spending per child enrolled:** $3,686
- **State spending per 3-year-old:** $25
- **State spending per 4-year-old:** $57

### SCREENING/REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Screening/referral requirements:** Determined locally
- **Federally funded Head Start enrollment:** 2,486
- **Staff-child ratio:** 8:1 or less
- **Staff-teacher ratio:** 2:1 or less
- **Maximum class size:** 20 or lower
- **Teacher degree requirement:** BA
- **Teacher specialized training:** None
- **Required support services:** Support services
- **State spending per child enrolled:** $3,686
- **State spending per 3-year-old:** $25
- **State spending per 4-year-old:** $57

### REGULATIONS

- **Teacher in-service requirement:** 5 credit hours/5 years
- **Assistant teacher degree requirement:** GED or HSD
- **Teacher specialized training requirement:** ECE teacher license
- **Teacher degree requirement:** BA
- **Teacher specialized training:** None
- **Required support services:** Support services
- **State spending per child enrolled:** $3,686
- **State spending per 3-year-old:** $25
- **State spending per 4-year-old:** $57

### SUPPORT SERVICES

- **Support services** include parenting support or training and parent involvement activities. Additionally, each program is required to have a parent involvement component that is sensitive to individual needs.