In 1990, the Ohio Public School Preschool Program (PSP) was established after four years as a successful pilot program. The program, now known as Early Childhood Education (ECE), serves 3- and 4-year-olds from families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), with a sliding fee scale used for children from families above 100 percent of FPL. Children from families above 200 percent of FPL may enroll, if space permits, using district funds or parent tuition. ECE funds are distributed directly to public schools, which may subcontract with Head Start programs or private child care centers. An increase in per-child spending during the 2006-2007 school year led to a decrease in the number of children funded by ECE. Funding for ECE increased in the fiscal year 2008-2009 biennium, thus increasing the number of districts receiving funds from 112 to 205 and the number of children funded.

Beginning in 2005, Ohio eliminated supplemental state funding for federal Head Start. The new program, Early Learning Initiative (ELI), funded with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), was created to mirror the educational and comprehensive services of the ECE program. The goal of ELI was to offer educational experiences that address school readiness and provide full-day, year-round services to children of working families. ELI directly funds Head Start programs, private and faith-based child care centers, and public schools. Any of these institutions may then subcontract with the same types of agencies as well as with family child care providers. The program serves children with family incomes up to 200 percent of FPL.

The first two pages of this state profile document Ohio’s overall contributions and commitment to state prekindergarten, including state spending and enrollment for both the Early Childhood Education initiative and the Early Learning Initiative. The third page focuses exclusively on the Early Childhood Education initiative and the final page presents specific details about the Early Learning Initiative.
STATE OVERVIEW

Total state program enrollment ........................................... 21,963
Total state spending .................................................. $151,642,502
State spending per child enrolled ............................ $6,904
All reported spending per child enrolled ...................... $6,904

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

3-YEAR-OLDS

4-YEAR-OLDS

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

OH PGMS*

HDST

K–12**

$6,904

$7,168

$9,358

$ THOUSANDS

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18

State Contributions

Local Contributions

Federal Contributions

TANF Spending

* 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 ’08–’09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS

3-YEAR-OLDS

30

10

RESOURCES RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING

ALL REPORTED SPENDING

5

10
ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ................................. 8,499†
School districts that offer state program ..................... 33%
Income requirement ............................................ 200% FPL
Hours of operation .............................................. Determined locally‡
Operating schedule ............................................. Academic year
Special education enrollment ...................................... 13,732
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .................... 31,077
State-funded Head Start enrollment .......................... 0

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

ACCESS

OHIO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

POLICY

Early learning standards ...................................... Not comprehensive, Comprehensive
Teacher degree ................................................. AA in ECE, BA
Teacher specialized ........................................... See footnotes (public)*, Specializing in pre-K
training AA in ECE (nonpublic)
Assistant teacher degree ..................................... HSD, CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service .............................................. 20 clock hours/2 years, At least 15 hours/year
Maximum class size ............................................. 20 or lower
3-year-olds ....................................................... 24
4-year-olds ....................................................... 28
Staff-child ratio .................................................. 1:10 or better
3-year-olds ....................................................... 1:12
4-year-olds ....................................................... 1:14
Screening/referral .............................................. Vision, hearing, health, dental, Vision, hearing, health; and
and support services development; and support services† at least 1 support service
Meals .............................................................. Depend on length of program day‡, At least 1/day
Monitoring ........................................................ Site visits and other monitoring, Site visits

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

BENCHMARK

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ...................................... $34,768,341
Local match required? ......................................... No
State spending per child enrolled .............................. $4,091
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................. $4,091

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

ECE* $4,091
HDST $7,168
K–12** $9,358

1 Additional 1,299 children from families with income above 200 percent FPL
paid full tuition; these children are not counted in the enrollment total.
2 ECE funds 3 to 3.5 hours of services daily, and most programs operate 4 days per
week. However, many districts use local or other funding sources to offer a full-
day program. The fifth day is used to provide home visits and parent conferences.
3 The current minimum requirement in public school settings is a Prekindergarten
Associate License, which requires at least an associate degree. However, many
school districts already require that lead teachers have a bachelors degree in ECE.
For all types of settings, the Ohio Revised Code specifies a timeline by which a
percentage of teachers must attain certain degree levels. By July 1, 2009, all
teachers in programs that began in fiscal year 2006 will be required to have an
AA or higher in ECE. By July 1, 2011, all teachers in programs that began in fiscal
year 2007 or later will be required to have an AA or higher in ECE.
4 For teachers in public school settings with bachelors degrees, acceptable licenses
include the following: Pre-K–3, Pre-K Teacher, Intervention Specialist, Early Child-
hood Intervention Specialist (P–3), or K–3 or K–8 certificate/license plus four courses
in ECE or child development from an accredited college or university. The minimum
requirement in a public school setting is the Prekindergarten Associate License
which requires an AA in ECE. Teachers in nonpublic settings are required to have
at least an AA in ECE.
5 Screenings and referrals for hematocrit are also required. Support services include
two annual parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities, health
services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and
transition to kindergarten activities.
6 Programs are required to provide breakfast, lunch, or snack depending on hours
of attendance.

3 This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

* 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 ‘08–09 school year, unless otherwise noted.
**OHIO EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE**

### ACCESS

- **Total state program enrollment**: 13,464
- **School districts that offer state program**: 91% (counties)
- **Income requirement**: 200% FPL
- **Hours of operation**: Determined locally
- **Operating schedule**: Calendar year
- **Special education enrollment**: 13,372
- **Federally funded Head Start enrollment**: 31,077
- **State-funded Head Start enrollment**: 0

### 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>Early learning standards</td>
<td>Not comprehensive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>AA in ECE</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>training</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Site visits and other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESOURCES

- **Total state pre-K spending**: $116,874,161
- **Local match required**: No
- **State spending per child enrolled**: $8,680
- **All reported spending per child enrolled**: $8,680

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1. Initial enrollment can occur at any point throughout the year. This number represents the average monthly enrollment.
2. Effective with the 2008-2009 school year, the income requirement was increased from a maximum of 185 percent of the FPL to 200 percent of the FPL.
3. Full-day programs operate 100 or more hours per week and half-day programs operate 50 to 99.5 hours per week. Both types of programs operate 5 days per week.
4. The current minimum requirement in public school settings is a Prekindergarten Associate License, which requires at least an associate degree. However, many school districts already require that lead teachers have a bachelor's degree in ECE. For all types of settings, the Ohio Revised Code specifies a timeline by which a percentage of teachers must attain certain degree levels. By July 1, 2011, all teachers in programs that began in fiscal year 2006 will be required to have an AA or higher in ECE. By July 1, 2009, all teachers in programs that began in fiscal year 2007 or later will be required to have an AA or higher in ECE.
5. For teachers in public school settings with bachelor's degrees, acceptable licenses include the following: Pre-K–3, Pre-K Teacher, Intervention Specialist, Early Childhood Intervention Specialist (P–3), or K–3 or K–8 certificate/license plus four courses in ECE or child development from an accredited college or university. The minimum requirement in a public school setting is the Prekindergarten Associate License, which requires an AA in ECE. Teachers in nonpublic settings are required to have at least an AA in ECE.
6. Screenings and referrals for lead and hematocrit are also required. Support services include the following: Pre-K, K, and Head Start
7. Programs are required to provide breakfast, lunch, or snack depending on hours of attendance.
8. This funding total consists of federal TANF funds that the state has chosen to direct toward preschoolers. There are no additional state funds.
9. This number is based on the average monthly enrollment and total spending, and is also based on the state's use of federal TANF funds.

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**SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED**

- **ELI**: $8,680
- **HDST**: $7,168
- **K-12**: $9,358

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*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 '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.