After a successful four-year pilot program, the Ohio Public School Preschool Program (PSP) was established in 1990. Now known as Early Childhood Education (ECE), the program serves 3- and 4-year-olds from families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A sliding fee scale is used for children from families above 100 percent of FPL. Children from families above 200 percent of FPL can also attend the program using district funds or parent tuition, if space permits. Funds are distributed directly to public schools, which may in turn subcontract with Head Start programs or private child care centers. During the 2006-2007 school year, an increase in per-child spending led to a decrease in the number of funded children. With the new biennium starting July 1, 2009, additional funding for Early Childhood Education increased the number of districts receiving funds from 112 to 205. This funding provided services for a total of 6,092 children.

Beginning in 2005, Ohio decreased supplemental state funding for the federal Head Start program in favor of providing state funds to the Early Learning Initiative (ELI). The program is a companion to the ECE program and requires the same educational and comprehensive services. The purpose of ELI is to provide education experiences that address school readiness and provide full-day, year-round services to children of working families. Agencies that receive funding directly are public schools, Head Start agencies, and private and faith-based child care centers. These agencies can in turn subcontract with the same types of agencies as well as with family child care providers. Eligibility for the ELI program is dependent on family income. Children with family incomes under 185 percent of FPL are eligible for the program. Formerly, eligibility was reassessed every six months and unless other funding was available, services were discontinued for families who began earning incomes above 185 percent of FPL. Effective with the 2007-2008 school year, children are assured of continuous enrollment for a full year after initially being determined eligible for ELI services. This change means that the ELI program now fits NIEER’s definition of a state-funded preschool education program.

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 ......................................19,215
Total state spending ......................................................$139,509,323
State spending per child enrolled ....................................$7,260
All reported spending per child enrolled .........................$7,260

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

3-YEAR-OLDS
85%
10%
2%
1%

4-YEAR-OLDS
74%
4%
12%
10%

■ Pre-K
■ Head Start
■ Special Ed†
■ Other/None
† This number represents children in special education
who are not enrolled in Head Start or ECE.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

OH PGMS*
$7,260
HDST
$6,970
K–12**
$10,334

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18

$ THOUSANDS

■ State Contributions
■ Federal Contributions
■ Local 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.

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS
3-YEAR-OLDS
29
15

RESOURCES RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING
ALL REPORTED SPENDING
4
9
OHIO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ............................................. 6,1661
School districts that offer state program ................................. 28%
Income requirement ............................................................. 200% FPL
Hours of operation ................................................................. Determined locally2
Operating schedule ................................................................. Academic year2
Special education enrollment .................................................. 13,433
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ................................. 32,651
State-funded Head Start enrollment ......................................... 0

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>ELI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>Special Ed†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start or ECE.

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 ............................................. Not comprehensive*</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree......................................................... AA (public), CDA (nonpublic)†</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized .................................................. Pre-K associate level teaching cert., Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>training</td>
<td>Pre-K, K, or EC license (public); Meets CDA requirements (nonpublic)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree ............................................. HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service ..................................................... 20 clock hours/2 years5</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size ...................................................... 20 or lower</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio ......................................................... 1:10 or better</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/referral ...................................................... Vision, hearing, health; and support services</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and support services</td>
<td>Developmental; and support services*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals ................................................................. Depend on length of program day7</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring ................................................................. Site visits and other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .................................................. $28,705,839
Local match required? ........................................................ No
State spending per child enrolled ........................................ $4,656
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............................ $4,656

* 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 ’07-’08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 An additional 1,250 children from families with income above 200 percent FPL paid full tuition; these children are not counted in the enrollment total.
2 Most programs operate between 3 and 3.5 hours per day, 4 days per week. Operating schedules are generally coordinated with district calendars. The funded annual operating schedule is technically the academic year, but schools may choose year-long services.
3 In addition to its Early Learning Content Standards, Ohio also has Program Guidelines that address child health and development, which have been reviewed and sanctioned by the state Board of Education.
4 For nonpublic settings, at least 50 percent of their teachers must have an AA or higher. All other teachers must be enrolled in an AA or higher degree program. By July 1, 2009 all teachers in programs that began in 2006 must have an AA.
5 Effective in 2007-2008, teachers now have two years to complete 20 hours of in-service instead of one year.
6 Screening and referrals for lead and hematocrit are also required. Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, child health services, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.
7 Lunch must be provided for children in attendance beyond part-day hours and snack is also provided for children who attend full-day sessions.
OHIO EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ........................................... 13,049
School districts that offer state program ......................... 91% (counties)
Income requirement .................................................... 165-185% FPL
Hours of operation ..................................................... Determined locally
Operating schedule ................................................. Calendar year
Special education enrollment ........................................ 13,433
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .................. 32,651
State-funded Head Start enrollment .................. \(0\)  

State pre-K spending ........................................ $110,803,484
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled .................................. $8,491
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................... $8,491

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
--- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning standards ........................................ Not comprehensive*....... Comprehensive
Teacher degree .............................................. HSD (public and nonpublic)........ BA
Teacher specialized .......... Pre-K associate level teaching cert., .......... Specializing in pre-K training
              Pre-K–3 license (public); Pre-K associate level teaching cert. (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 ................................................................ 20
  4-year-olds ................................................................ 20
Staff-child ratio ......................................................... 1:10 or better
  3-year-olds ......................................................... 1:10
  4-year-olds ......................................................... 1:10
Screening/referral .................... Vision, hearing, health, dental, .......... Vision, hearing, health; and developmental; and support services* at least 1 support service
Meals ................................................................. Depends on length of program day7 .......... At least 1/day
Monitoring ......................................................... Site visits and other monitoring .......... Site visits

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ........................................ $110,803,484
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ................................. $8,491
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................. $8,491

* 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.

1 Initial enrollment can occur at any point throughout the year. This number represents the average monthly enrollment.
2 Families enter the program at up to 165 percent FPL and exit the program at 185 percent FPL.
3 Programs are reimbursed by the number of hours of attendance based on hourly, part-time or full-time rates. Full-day reimbursement is based on 100 or more hours per 4 weeks and part-day is based on 55 to 99.5 hours per 4 weeks. Programs operate 5 days per week.
4 In addition to its Early Learning Content Standards, Ohio also has Program Guidelines that address child health and development, which have been reviewed and sanctioned by the state Board of Education.
5 At least 50 percent of teachers must have an AA degree or higher. All other teachers must be working toward an AA degree.
6 Screening and referrals for hematocrit are also required. Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, child health services, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and other support services.
7 This number is based on the average monthly enrollment and total spending. Each contracted agency is awarded approximately $10,438 per slot which could be for multiple children, who may enroll on a full-time, part-time or hourly basis.