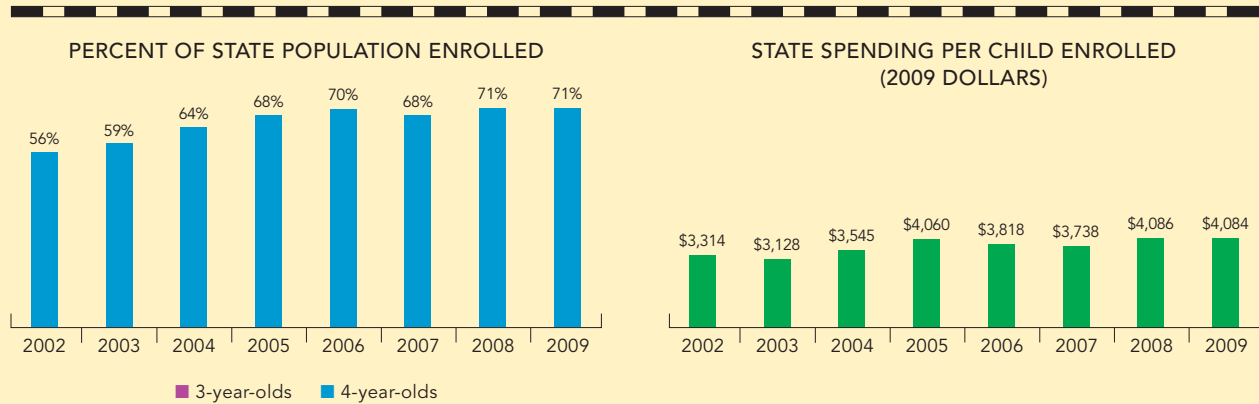


Oklahoma



Oklahoma established a pilot preschool education program in 1980. This program, the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program, aimed to eventually serve all 4-year-olds in the state. In 1990, the program received statewide funding, although it was limited only to 4-year-olds eligible for the federal Head Start program. However, districts could choose to offer the program to other 4-year-olds through tuition or local funds. In 1998, Oklahoma began providing free, voluntary access to preschool education for all of the state's 4-year-olds, becoming the second state in the nation to do so.

Over the years, enrollment in the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program has steadily increased, and 99 percent of school districts currently offer the program. Beginning with the 2003-2004 program year, Oklahoma has ranked first in the nation every year for serving the highest percentage of 4-year-olds in state-funded preschool. Also, greater proportions of 4-year-olds are now attending full-day programs rather than half-day programs across the state.

While there are no specific state funds for 3-year-olds, 153 Oklahoma school districts have taken the initiative to offer classroom programs for these students. Funding through other sources such as Title I, district general funds, special education, and Head Start have placed 1,970 3-year-olds in pre-K classrooms.

Directly through the state's school finance formula, public school districts receive funding for the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program. Districts are reimbursed at the per-pupil rate, with specific funding amounts or weights based on the length of the program day. Districts may choose to subcontract with other providers by placing public school teachers into Head Start programs, child care centers, and other community-based programs. Children enrolled in collaboration programs receive the same services as children served in public schools because they are also considered public school enrollees. During the 2008-2009 program year, more than 4,100 children were served through collaboration programs.

The Pilot Early Childhood Program was launched during the 2006-2007 school year. Funding comes from public and private dollars, and rules and regulations for the program were established by the Oklahoma State Board of Education. Available year-round to at-risk children from birth through age 3, the program continues to expand its enrollment each year, with 510 3-year-olds served in the 2008-2009 school year.

In addition, Oklahoma supplements the federal Head Start program, providing \$2,905,620 in state funds to the program in fiscal year 2009. These funds provide extended-day and additional services.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
1	None Served

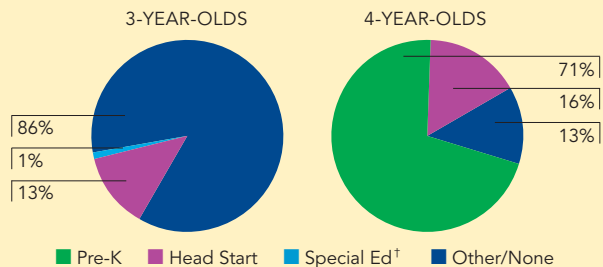
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
18	8

OKLAHOMA EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUR-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	36,042
School districts that offer state program	99%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	2.5 hours/day (half-day) and/or 6 hours/day (full-day); 5 days/week ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	3,628
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	14,796
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0 ²

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



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA/BS	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EC certification for birth-3	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Must meet NCLB requirements ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	75 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health,	Vision, hearing, health; and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
and support services	developmental; and support services ⁴	at least 1 support service	
Meals	At least 1 meal ⁵	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

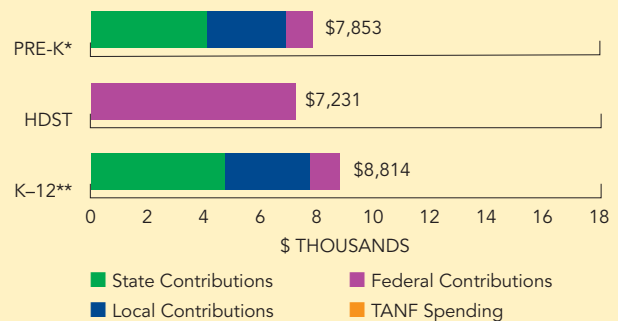
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

9

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$147,185,345
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$2,905,620 ²
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,084
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,853

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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.

¹ Providers may choose from three program options: a half-day program with 2.5 instructional hours daily, a full-day program with 6 instructional hours daily, or a combination of both options. Districts can choose to offer a longer day, but will not receive additional state funds through the state aid formula. All programs operate 5 days per week.

² State Head Start funds are used to expand services for an extended day and provide additional services.

³ Assistant teachers must meet federal requirements to be highly qualified under NCLB. They must have an AA, or 48 credit hours of college coursework, or pass one of two state-approved tests that do not have specific educational requirements. One test is the Oklahoma General Education Test (an exam required for pre-K-12 public school teachers) and the other is a national test for para-professional status.

⁴ Dental services are determined locally. Support services include two parent conferences or home visits annually, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. Programs must also offer or make referrals for other services including mental health services (counselors) and all other typical public school program services (such as early intervention, transition programs or literacy coaches).

⁵ At least one meal is provided through the Federal Child Nutrition Program, but specific meals depend on the length of the program day. This federal program does not provide snacks for students, so snacks are determined locally.