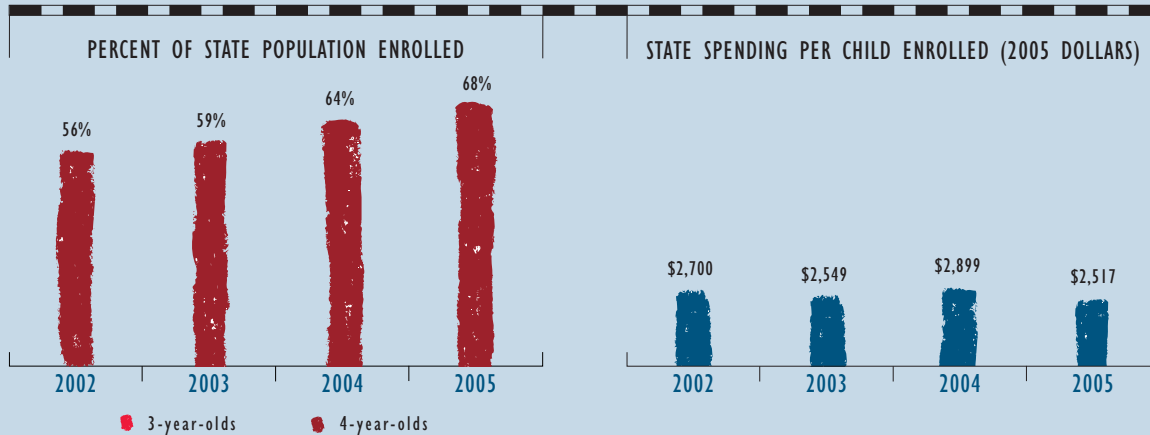


Oklahoma



Oklahoma began providing services for 4-year-olds when the state Legislature appropriated funds for a pilot program in 1980. In 1990, additional legislation broadened the program to include 4-year-olds eligible for Head Start. In 1998, the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program became the second state-funded prekindergarten initiative in the nation to offer free voluntary enrollment to all 4-year-olds statewide. Since that time, the numbers of both districts offering prekindergarten, and the children participating in the program have steadily and significantly increased. Oklahoma ranked first in the nation for the percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled in state-funded prekindergarten for both the 2003–2004 and 2004–2005 school years.

Most participating children are served in public schools, but some local districts collaborate with child care centers, Head Start programs and other community-based organizations to provide services. Regardless of the setting in which prekindergarten is offered, all teachers are required to have a bachelor's degree with certification in early childhood education and are paid on the public school salary scale. Districts that choose to provide prekindergarten are reimbursed through the school funding formula for each child enrolled. The funding amount varies depending on whether schools offer a half-day program or a full-day program.

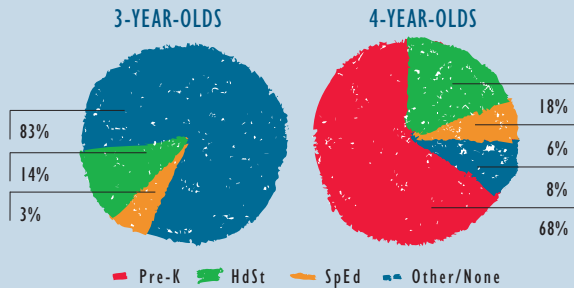
Through a separate initiative, Oklahoma appropriates state money to supplement federal funds for Head Start grantees. In fiscal year 2005, Head Start programs received \$2,905,620 to support additional enrollment, expanded services, and extended program hours.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	31,712
School districts that offer state program	95%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	4,160
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	14,795
State-funded Head Start enrollment	185 ²

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

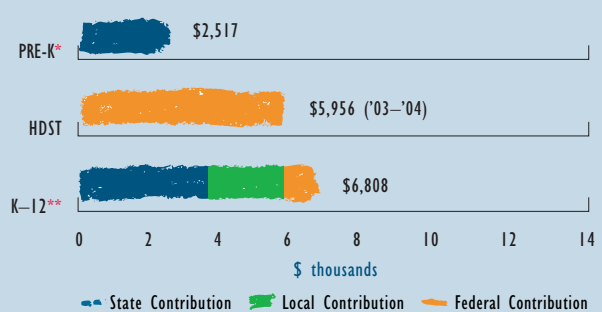
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EC certification	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD or GED	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours	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 and support services	Health and support services ³	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	At least 1 meal ⁴	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	\$79,818,197
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,517
State Head Start spending	\$2,905,620
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$1,723

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

¹ Half-day programs operate for 2.5 hours, while full-day programs operate for 6 hours. Many districts offer both full- and half-day programs. All programs operate 5 days per week.

² Oklahoma did not track the number of children served through its Head Start supplement. As a result, this figure is an estimate based on the number of non-federally funded children in Oklahoma reported in Head Start's 2003-2004 Program Information Report, and proportions of Oklahoma's Head Start enrollees who were 3 or 4 years old.

³ Support services include health services for children, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, provision of a counselor, psychologist, psychometrist, and school nurse, special education services, and referral for outside assistance if needed. Additional specific services may be offered at local discretion.

⁴ Specific meal requirements depend on the length and time of the program day.