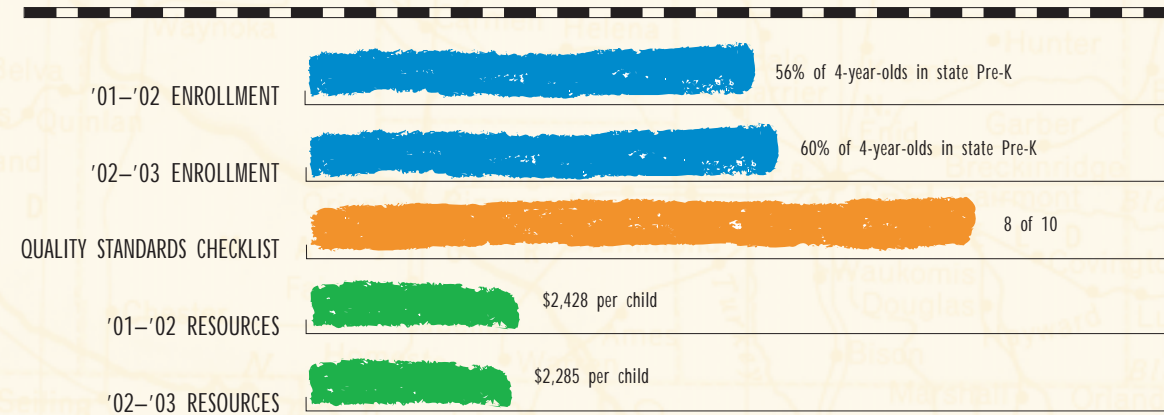


Oklahoma



In 1980, the Legislature appropriated funds for a pilot program providing preschool services to 4-year-olds. This pilot initiative continued until 1990, when additional legislation broadened the program by offering access to 4-year-olds who were eligible for Head Start. Eligibility criteria were further broadened in 1998, when the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program was opened to any 4-year-old in the state whose parents wished them to attend. Since that time, enrollment has grown significantly with Oklahoma ranking first in the nation for percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled. Districts are not required to offer a prekindergarten program, but if a district chooses to do so, it is reimbursed through the school funding formula for each child enrolled.

Under the state equity formula, schools receive a basic allotment per child that takes into account such factors as whether a student has special needs or comes from a low-income family. For the prekindergarten program, the basic allotment schools receive per child is multiplied by 1.3 for a child attending a full-day program and 0.7 for a half-day program. All programs must be funded through the public schools and meet public school standards, but schools are encouraged to collaborate with Head Start, child care, and other community-based organizations to provide services.

In 2002–2003, the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program was funded at \$64,121,825 and served 28,060 children.

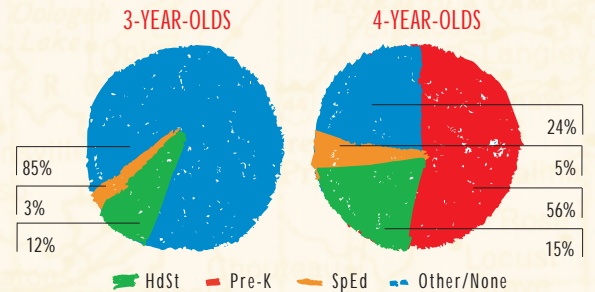
Oklahoma also provides a state supplement for Head Start. In fiscal year 2002, \$3,316,917 was used for services such as summer classes and playground safety, as well as for enrollment increases.



ACCESS

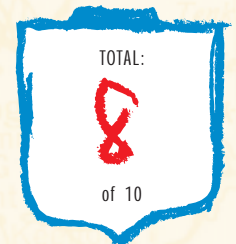
Total state program enrollment	25,879
School districts that offer state program	90%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	3,514
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	12,539
State-funded Head Start enrollment	NA ²

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

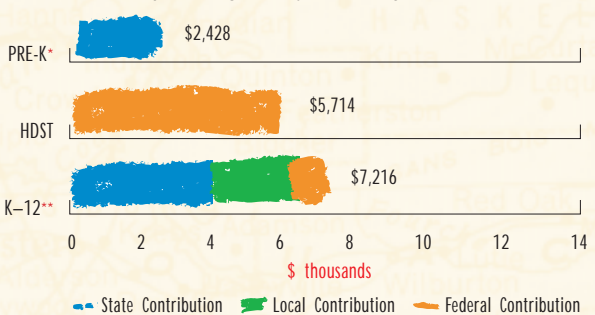
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	EC certificate	Specializing in EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	GED or HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	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 requirements	Determined locally	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	Family support services ³	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	Breakfast and lunch	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$62,828,834 ⁴
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,428
State Head Start spending	\$3,316,917
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$1,350

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 '01-'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Most districts (57%) provide full-day programs only. About 36% offer half-day only, and 7% offer both types. Funding differs depending on length of the program day.

² Funds from Oklahoma's Head Start supplement were used mostly for services, although some funds were used to increase enrollment. The state did not track the number of additional children served in 2001–2002.

³ Because Pre-K is part of the public school system, staff (speech therapists, counselors, nurses) must provide comprehensive services to families. State law encourages teachers to hold one parent conference per semester, but this is not required.

⁴ District funding is based on a per-child formula. The 2004 Pre-K–12 budget reduces money in the formula.