Until 2004, Pennsylvania did not have a state-funded prekindergarten program that was considered such under state law. However, through Pennsylvania’s Kindergarten for Four-Year-Olds (K4) program, school districts could voluntarily provide preschool education services. School districts can also provide preschool to 4-year-olds through the School Based Pre-K program (SBPK). School districts offering K4 must follow Pennsylvania’s kindergarten regulations whereas school districts offering SBPK must follow the state’s preschool regulations. Four-year-old children enrolled in K4 and SBPK are partially funded through the state’s basic instructional subsidy formula as they are included in the districts’ daily membership counts for public school attendance. For the 2008-2009 school year, SBPK is profiled along with the K4 program.

The state created a prekindergarten option through the Education Accountability Block Grant (EABG) during the 2004-2005 school year, offering high-quality preschool education programs aimed at providing strong foundations of learning to support children’s academic success. Children are eligible for EABG prekindergarten programs two years prior to the locally determined kindergarten eligibility age, but districts can choose additional requirements such as academic readiness or low-income status. EABG funds may be used for various early childhood options, including prekindergarten, full-day kindergarten, reduced class size in kindergarten through third grade, and other options that promote students’ academic success. Districts determine how to allocate these funds.

In the 2004-2005 program year, Pennsylvania also launched a third state-funded preschool initiative, the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP), with an initial investment of $15 million. Since that time, the program’s enrollment and state funding have both increased. Supplemental state funds create additional Head Start slots or provide extended-day services for federally funded Head Start children. Federal Head Start grantees may take part in this state-funded program and include child care partners who are also participating in the Keystone STARS quality initiative at a minimum STAR 3 level. All participating programs are required to follow the federal Head Start Performance Standards. Budget cuts in the 2008-2009 program year resulted in a decrease in HSSAP services and only continuation grantees received funding.

The Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts program, a fourth state-funded prekindergarten initiative, was established in the 2007-2008 school year. Children are eligible for Pre-K Counts two years before their locally determined kindergarten eligibility and districts can establish additional risk factors. The Pennsylvania Department of Education allocates Pre-K Counts funding to grantees through a competitive award system. Eligible grantees include Head Start programs, public school districts, and licensed nursery schools or child care centers that hold a STAR 3 or 4 credential in Keystone STARS.

Implementation of K4, EABG, Pre-K Counts, and state Head Start funding currently requires a plan for the delivery of a quality prekindergarten framework that includes standards detailing research-based best practices. These standards incorporate the state’s learning standards for early childhood and Keystone STARS standards.

The first two pages of this state profile present information on Pennsylvania’s overall commitment and contribution to state-funded preschool education, including state spending and enrollment for all four of Pennsylvania’s preschool programs. The third page focuses exclusively on EABG, the fourth page describes K4, the fifth page provides specific details about HSSAP, and the last page highlights the Pre-K Counts program.
STATE OVERVIEW

Total state program enrollment ........................................ 31,509
Total state spending .................................................... $179,944,302
State Head Start spending ............................................. $39,330,180
State spending per child enrolled ................................. $5,711
All reported spending per child enrolled .................... $5,711

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

Pre-K  Head Start  Special Ed†  Other/None
3-YEAR-OLDS
16%  11%  4%  69%
4-YEAR-OLDS
83%  4%  8%  5%

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PA PGMS*</th>
<th>HDST</th>
<th>K–12**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ THOUSANDS</td>
<td>$5,711</td>
<td>$8,349</td>
<td>$14,263</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Data are for the ‘08–’09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

ACCESS RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE SPENDING</th>
<th>ALL REPORTED SPENDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The state did not break EABG enrollment into a specific number of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age breakdowns used in the Access pie chart were estimated, using the proportions of enrollees who were ages 3 or 4 in state programs that served 3-year-olds and provided age breakdowns for the 2008–2009 school year.
2 For the first time, an estimate of spending for the K4/SBPK program is included in these figures.
Pennsylvania Education Accountability Block Grant

Access

Total state program enrollment ........................................... 4,300
School districts that offer state program ........................... 8%
Income requirement .............................................................. None
Hours of operation .............................................................. Determined locally
Operating schedule .............................................................. Determined locally
Special education enrollment ............................................ 19,077
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ............................ 27,220
State-funded Head Start enrollment ................................. 5,307

State Pre-K Spending ...................................................... $14,700,000
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State Head Start Spending .............................................. $39,330,180
State spending per child enrolled ..................................... $3,419
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......................... $3,419

POLICY

STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT

Early learning standards ............................................... Comprehensive
Teacher degree .............. BA (public); AA (community partners) BA
Teacher specialized.......Certification in ECE: PK–4, N–3 (public); Specializing in pre-K training
Assistant teacher degree None CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service .............. 180 clock hours/5 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 .............. Determined locally Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service
Meals ................................................. None At least 1/day
Monitoring ......................... Site visits and other monitoring Site visits

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

BENCHMARK

Comprehensive
Comprehensive
BA
BA
Specializing in pre-K training
CDA or equivalent
At least 15 hours/year
20 or lower
20
1:10
1:10
Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service
None
Site visits

Does requirement meet benchmark?

☑
☑
☐
☑
☐
☐
☐
☑
☐
☐

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending ................................................ $14,700,000
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State Head Start spending .............................................. $39,330,180
State spending per child enrolled ..................................... $3,419
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......................... $3,419

EABG* $3,419
HDST $8,349
K-12** $14,263

* 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 This enrollment is an estimate as the state could not provide an exact enrollment figure or break EABG enrollment into a specific number of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age breakdowns used in the Access pie chart were estimated, using the proportions of enrollees who were ages 3 or 4 in state programs that served 3- year-olds and provided age breakdowns for 2008–2009.

2 Eligibility requirements are locally determined.

3 Most programs operate 2.5 hours or 5 hours per day, 5 days per week, 180 days per year.

4 Teachers working in programs in community settings that operated before December 2006 have until December 2012 to obtain a BA and ECE certification.

Teachers working in programs in community settings that were contracted after December 2006 must obtain a BA and ECE certification within five years of the program beginning to serve students. PK–4 is the new certification requirement being phased in for teachers in public settings and will take full effect in January 2012. Prior to then, N-3 certifications also apply. In public school settings, assistant teachers must meet the requirements of highly qualified for NCLB. For non-public settings, programs follow their regulatory requirements. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, all assistant teachers will be required to complete at least two years of postsecondary study, possess an AA or higher, or pass a rigorous state or local assessment of knowledge of and ability to assist in instruction.

Teachers working in programs in community settings that operated before December 2006 have until December 2012 to obtain a BA and ECE certification.
**PENNSYLVANIA KINDERGARTEN FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS AND SCHOOL BASED PRE-K**

**ACCESS**

Total state program enrollment.............................................. 9,625
School districts that offer state program ............................ 18%
Income requirement ......None (K4); Determined locally (SBPK)
Hours of operation...................................................... 2.5 hours/day (part-day) or
5 hours/day (full-day); 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................. Academic year
Special education enrollment ......................................... 19,077
Federally funded Head Start enrollment..................... 27,220
State-funded Head Start enrollment ......................... 5,307

**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 ....................................................... Comprehensive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree ............................................................. BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized ......................... EE or ECE certification (K4); Specializing in pre-K training</td>
<td>ECE certification (SBPK)</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher ................................... Meet NCLB requirements</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent degree</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Title I schools); None (all other schools)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service ........................................ 180 clock hours/5 years</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/week</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size ............................................. 20 or lower</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds ........................................................ NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds ................................................ 20 (SBPK)2</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 ................................................. No limit (K4); 1:10 (SBPK)2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds ................................................ NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/referral ........................................... Determined locally</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals .............................................................. None</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring ......................................................... None</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESOURCES**

Total state pre-K spending ................................................. $40,914,1223
Local match required? ................................................. No
State Head Start spending .............................................. $39,330,180
State spending per child enrolled ................................... $4,2513
All reported spending per child enrolled* ....................... $4,2513

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K–12**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 Assistant teachers in Title I schools must meet the NCLB requirements for highly qualified teachers. There are no specific degree requirements for assistant teachers in other schools. By the 2009-2010 school year, all assistant teachers in School Based Pre-K will be required to meet the highly qualified requirements of NCLB.

2 The K4 program follows kindergarten requirements, which do not limit class size or staff-to-child ratio. Based on this clarification it does not meet NIEER’s requirement. However, most programs have 20 children and a 1:10 staff-to-child ratio. School Based Pre-K follows the Pennsylvania School Board regulations, which require a maximum class size of 20 and a staff-to-child ratio of 1:10.

3 The state funding and per-child spending amounts are estimations based on calculations using the state’s average K–12 per-child expenditure.
PENNSYLVANIA HEAD START SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ........................................ 5,743
School districts that offer state program ......................... 75% (Head Start grantees)
Income requirement .................................................... 90% of children must be at or below 100% FPL
Hours of operation ...................................................... Determined locally
Operating schedule ..................................................... Determined locally
Special education enrollment ........................................ 19,077
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ......................... 27,220
State-funded Head Start enrollment ............................. 5,307

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY

Early learning standards .............................................. Comprehensive
Teacher degree .......................................................... CDA3, BA
Teacher specialized training ...................................... Meets CDA requirements3, Specializing in pre-K
Assistant teacher degree ............................................. HSD3, CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service ..................................................... 15 clock hours, At least 15 hours/year
Maximum class size .................................................. 20 or lower
3-year-olds .............................................................. 17
4-year-olds .............................................................. 20
Staff-child ratio ........................................................ 1:10 or better
3-year-olds .............................................................. 2:17
4-year-olds .............................................................. 2:17
Screening/referral ...................................................... Vision, hearing, health, dental, Vision, hearing, health; and
and support services ................................................ developmental; and support services4, at least 1 support service
Meals ................................................................. Lunch and either breakfast or snack, At least 1 support service
Monitoring ........................................................... Site visits and other monitoring, Site visits

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ........................................... $39,330,180
Local match required? ............................................... No
State Head Start spending .......................................... $39,300,180
State spending per child enrolled .............................. $6,848
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............... $6,848

* 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.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

HSSAP* ...................................................................... $6,848
HDST ........................................................................ $8,349
K–12** ..................................................................... $14,263

1 State pre-K children must meet the federal Head Start income guidelines. Effective December 2007, 35 percent of the enrollment may be children whose family incomes are between 100 and 130 percent FPL. Pre-K children at or below 100 percent FPL.
2 The operating schedule is determined locally, but the minimum follows federal Head Start requirements of 3.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, and 128 days per year.
3 The Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 requires that by 2011 all lead teachers must have at least an AA; by 2013, 50 percent must have at least a BA.
4 Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits and comprehensive services as required by federal Head Start Performance Standards including parent education or job training, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. Other support services are determined locally.
5 All spending through this initiative is directed toward Head Start programs.
PENNSYLVANIA PRE-K COUNTS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment.................................11,841
School districts that offer state program...........93% (counties)
Income requirement ...........................................300% FPL1
Hours of operation .........2.5 instructional hours/day (part-day),
                         5 instructional hours/day (full-day),
                         5 days/week
Operating schedule ...............................................Academic year
Special education enrollment ................................19,077
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.............27,220
State-funded Head Start enrollment .................5,307

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>Comprehensive ...........</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher degree ................</td>
<td>BA in ECE (public); AA in ECE, BA</td>
<td>ECE cert., and/or 18 credits (nonpublic)2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized ..........</td>
<td>ECE cert. (public); AA in ECE, ECE Training cert., and/or 18 credits in ECE (nonpublic)2</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree ......</td>
<td>None3 ....................</td>
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<td>Teacher in-service ............</td>
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<td>Maximum class size ............</td>
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<td>3-year-olds ...................</td>
<td>20 ........................</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✗</td>
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<td>4-year-olds ...................</td>
<td>20 ........................</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio ............</td>
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<td>Determined locally, Vision, hearing, health; and support services 4 at least 1 support service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening/referral ............</td>
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<td>Vision, hearing, health; and support services</td>
<td>✗</td>
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<tr>
<td>and support services.........</td>
<td>At least 1 support service</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals ..........................</td>
<td>Snack5 ..................</td>
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<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring ....................</td>
<td>Site visits and other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ......................................$85,000,000
Local match required? ...........................................No
State Head Start spending .....................................$39,330,180
State spending per child enrolled .......................$7,178
All reported spending per child enrolled* ..............$7,178

* 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 Income is only one of the possible risk factors used to determine eligibility. Other risk factors are determined locally and could include low parental education level or other economic, language, and/or cultural disadvantages that put children at risk for school failure.
2 Teachers in child care and Head Start are required to have at least an AA in early childhood education. Teachers in nursery schools are required to have ECE certification or 18 credits in ECE. Beginning in December 2011, all lead teachers will be required to have a BA and ECE certification.
3 Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, all assistant teachers will be required to complete at least two years of postsecondary education, possess an AA or higher, or pass a rigorous state or local assessment of knowledge of and ability to assist in instruction.
4 Vision, hearing, health, dental, and developmental screenings and referrals are determined locally. Support services required of all programs include parent involvement activities and transition to kindergarten activities.
5 Half-day programs are required to provide a snack. Full-day programs are required to provide a snack and one meal.