Although Pennsylvania does not have a state-funded prekindergarten program, 6 percent of the state’s school districts voluntarily provide a preschool education to 4-year-olds through a public school program known as Kindergarten for Four-Year-Olds. State law does not consider this program to be a distinct preschool initiative and the program does not require any specific early childhood standards.

In districts offering Kindergarten for Four-Year-Olds programs, the participants are included in the districts’ daily membership counts and are partially funded through the state’s basic instructional subsidy formula. Most districts provide additional funding for their programs through local taxes, Title I, or Head Start partnerships. In 2003–2004, districts served 2,438 children through this initiative.

Pennsylvania has taken steps to begin expanding preschool opportunities and providing state funding for preschool. In 2004, the state Legislature approved a new Education Accountability Block Grant totaling $200 million, two-thirds of which will be dedicated to improving early childhood programs. Individual school districts determine how to target these funds and can use them for a range of purposes, including full-day kindergarten and reduced class sizes in grades K through 3, as well as prekindergarten.

This block grant will provide over $9 million to 40 school districts, allowing them to serve approximately 3,426 prekindergarten students. Thirteen districts will establish new prekindergarten programs using these funds.

Through a separate initiative, the state provided $2 million in fiscal year 2003 to support extended-day child care for Head Start participants. As a result of new funding initiatives, $15 million in state funds has been allocated for Head Start programs so they can offer extended-day services as well as serve additional children.

Through a separate initiative, the state provided $2 million in fiscal year 2003 to support extended-day child care for Head Start participants. As a result of new funding initiatives, $15 million in state funds has been allocated for Head Start programs so they can offer extended-day services as well as serve additional children.

## ACCESS

This state program enrollment - 2009
Small districts that offer state programs - 45%
Income requirement - None
Hours of operation - Determined locally
Opening schedule - Academic year
Special education enrollment - NA
State-funded Head Start enrollment - 2003

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

### POLICY
- Curriculum standards - Not comprehensive
- Teacher degree requirement - BA
- Teacher specialized training requirement - Teaching license
- Staff-child ratio - 1:10 or better
- Required support services - Determined locally
- Meal requirement - None
- Maximum class size - 20 or lower
- Teacher in-service requirement - At least 15 hours/year
- Teacher specialized training requirement - Specializing in Pre-K
- Teacher specialized training requirement - Teaching license

### RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Pre-K spending</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local match required?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State spending per 3-year-old</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State spending per 4-year-old</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-funded Head Start enrollment</td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOURCES RATING</th>
<th>RESOURCES RATING</th>
<th>RESOURCES RATING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>None Served</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are for the ‘02–’03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 Programs using basic education funding must operate at least 15 hours per day but there is no maximum number of hours per day that a program may operate. Programs must operate at least 150 days per year.
2 In fiscal year 2003, the state provided $2 million to support extended-day child care for Head Start participants. As a result of new funding initiatives, $15 million in state funds has been allocated for Head Start programs so they can offer extended-day services as well as serve additional children.
3 Competitive grant processes were developed and offered to school districts as guidance in designing Pre-K programs under the state’s new Education Accountability Block Grant. Districts determine how to target these funds and can use them for a range of purposes, including full-day kindergarten and reduced class sizes in grades K through 3, as well as prekindergarten.
4 Pennsylvania has taken steps to begin expanding preschool opportunities and providing state funding for preschool. In 2004, the state Legislature approved a new Education Accountability Block Grant totaling $200 million, two-thirds of which will be dedicated to improving early childhood programs. Individual school districts determine how to target these funds and can use them for a range of purposes, including full-day kindergarten and reduced class sizes in grades K through 3, as well as prekindergarten.
5 The state provided $2 million in fiscal year 2003 to support extended-day child care for Head Start participants. As a result of new funding initiatives, $15 million in state funds has been allocated for Head Start programs so they can offer extended-day services as well as serve additional children.
6 Pennsylvania has taken steps to begin expanding preschool opportunities and providing state funding for preschool. In 2004, the state Legislature approved a new Education Accountability Block Grant totaling $200 million, two-thirds of which will be dedicated to improving early childhood programs. Individual school districts determine how to target these funds and can use them for a range of purposes, including full-day kindergarten and reduced class sizes in grades K through 3, as well as prekindergarten.