

Pennsylvania

'01-'02 ENROLLMENT	2% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K
'02-'03 ENROLLMENT	2% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST	3 of 10
'01-'02 RESOURCES	Amount not available
'02-'03 RESOURCES	Amount not available

Pennsylvania does not currently fund a prekindergarten program, although 30 school districts voluntarily provide educational services to some 4-year-olds through a limited public school program known as Kindergarten for Four-Year-Olds. It is important to emphasize that state law considers this program to be *part* of elementary school, rather than a separate prekindergarten initiative designed to prepare children for elementary school. As a result, the state regulations that apply to this program are elementary school regulations.

While Pennsylvania does not devote funds specifically for preschool education services, districts that had established a 4-year-old kindergarten program by 1991 are eligible for continued funding based on their 1991 subsidy, with ad-hoc increases that are not directly related to the current number of students or the costs associated with serving them. Districts that were not operating kindergartens for 4-year-olds in 1991 are not eligible for state funding at the present time. It is not possible to estimate the amount spent on the Kindergarten for Four-Year-Olds program. Most districts are funding their programs through local taxes, Title I, and Head Start partnerships.

Through a separate initiative, in 2001–2002 Pennsylvania provided \$2,000,000 in state funds to support extended-day child care for Head Start children.

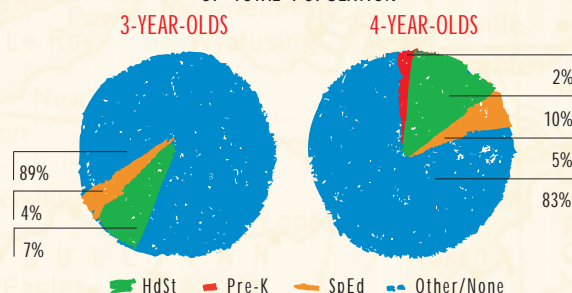
The Kindergarten for Four-Year-Olds program served 2,667 children in 30 of the state's 501 districts during 2002–2003. In 2003, a new preschool education initiative was proposed that would target \$550,000,000 a year for early childhood programs, including full-day kindergarten for all schools and preschool for children in the state's most disadvantaged districts. A more limited proposal was passed that will make \$175,000,000 in block grants available in 2004–2005. Schools can use these funds for a variety of purposes, including prekindergarten and full-day kindergarten.

ACCESS RANKING—4s	ACCESS RANKING—3s	RESOURCES RANKING
33	50	NA

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	2,550
School districts that offer state program	6%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Half-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	13,783
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	25,285
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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	Not comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Teaching license	Specializing in EC	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	Not reported	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	6 credit hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	No limit		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	No limit		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision, hearing, and health	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	None	At least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL:

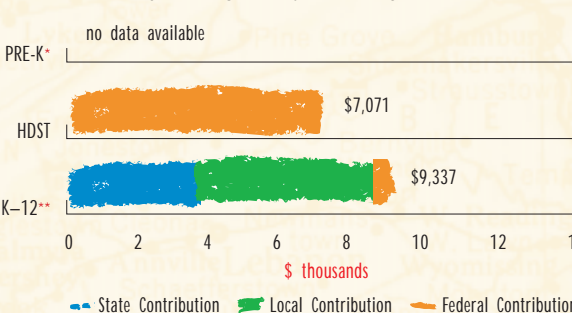
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RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	Not reported
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	NA
State Head Start spending	\$2,000,000
State spending per 3-year-old	NA
State spending per 4-year-old	NA

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* No data available.
 ** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.
 Data are for the '01-'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.