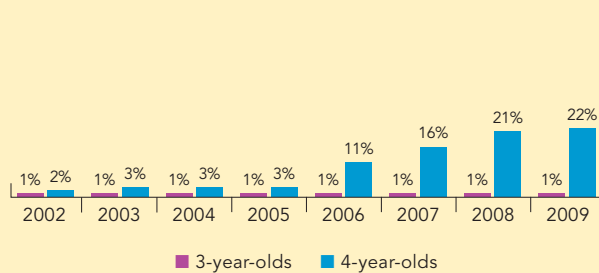
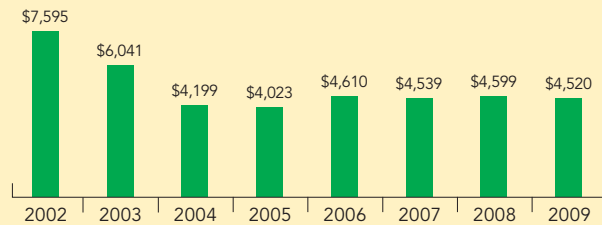


Tennessee

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2009 DOLLARS)



Tennessee's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Pilot Project began in 1998. The state funds competitive grants for public schools, institutes of higher education, Head Start agencies, private child care agencies, and public housing authorities to provide preschool education programs. Tennessee launched the Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) program for the 2005-2006 program year, which now includes the ECE pilot program. Only public schools can compete for state-funded VPK grants, but they may subcontract with Head Start agencies, institutes of higher education, private child care agencies, public housing authorities, or any three-star rated private or community-based child-serving agency. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, pilot programs were funded the same way as VPK programs. Four-year-olds who are considered at risk due to their eligibility for free and reduced-price lunch have priority for enrollment. However, when an insufficient number of at-risk children enroll, other children who meet state-specified risk factors, including having a history of abuse or neglect, being in state custody, having an IEP, or English Language Learner status, are eligible to enroll in VPK. If all children who meet state-specified risk factors have been enrolled and there is remaining space, children who meet local risk factors as determined by the Community Pre-K Advisory Council may enroll. Such local risk factors may include children who have a parent on active military duty, single-parent families, low education level of parents, or teen parents. The pilot program may still enroll at-risk 3-year-olds. However, the VPK program only serves 4-year-olds.

Tennessee's early childhood program relied partially on TANF funding until 2003. The state began using excess lottery revenue to fund and expand the VPK program in 2005. These lottery funds allowed the state to serve an additional 6,000 children during the 2005-2006 program year. In the 2006-2007 program year, the state tripled its general revenue allocation for pre-K education, created 232 new VPK programs, and served more than 4,500 additional children. During the 2007-2008 school year, the VPK program served an additional 4,700 children with an extra \$25 million. However, for the 2008-2009 school year, programs received inflationary adjustments only and no additional funds were provided to expand the program.

In 2005, the state established the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to be responsible for VPK program administration, monitoring, oversight, technical assistance, data collection, and training. The OEL encompasses the Even Start State Coordinator Office, Head Start State Collaboration Office, Family Resources Centers, and School Administered Child Care Program Evaluation. The office coordinates and collaborates with community providers, intra-state agencies, and local school systems to gather information and best practices in support of prekindergarten education.

During the 2009-2010 school year, Vanderbilt University began a longitudinal, randomized evaluation of the effectiveness of the VPK program.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
18	23

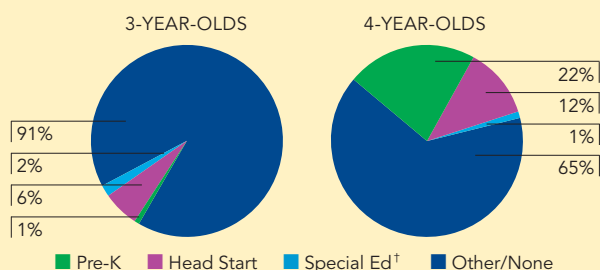
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
15	15

TENNESSEE VOLUNTARY PRE-K

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	18,364
School districts that offer state program	99% (counties)
Income requirement	185% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	5.5 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	6,442
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	14,841
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

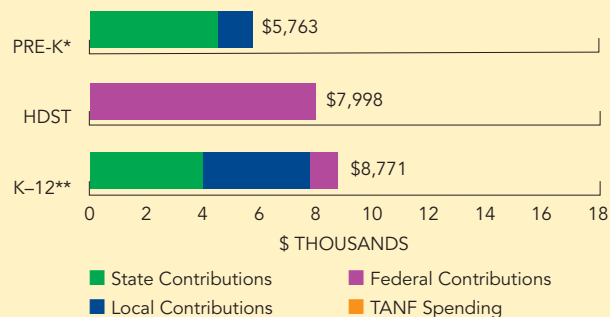
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Teaching license and EC endorsement ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA (ECE pilot); HSD + pre-K experience (VPK) ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	18 clock hours ⁵	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	16		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:8		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services ⁶	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Lunch and either breakfast or snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
9

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$83,000,000
Local match required?	Yes ⁷
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,520
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$5,763

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 '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Once all available students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch are enrolled, LEAs are permitted to enroll children whose families do not meet this income criterion.

² Nap time cannot be counted in the 5.5 hour minimum.

³ Permissible types of endorsements include Pre-K-3, Pre-K-4, Pre-K-K Regular and Special Education, Pre-K-1 Special Education, and Pre-K-3 Special Education.

⁴ In the VPK program, the LEA is required to hire an assistant teacher with a CDA if one is available, but if not, the LEA may hire one with a high school diploma and relevant experience working with ECE programs.

⁵ Teachers working in public schools must meet the state requirement of 30 hours of in-service per year. The 18 hours required in early childhood for preschool teachers may count toward this total.

⁶ Dental screenings and referrals are locally determined. Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, referral for social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. Some other comprehensive services are required, but specific services are determined locally.

⁷ The state Basic Education Plan (BEP) funding formula determines the state share and the amount of the local match, based on each county's tax base.