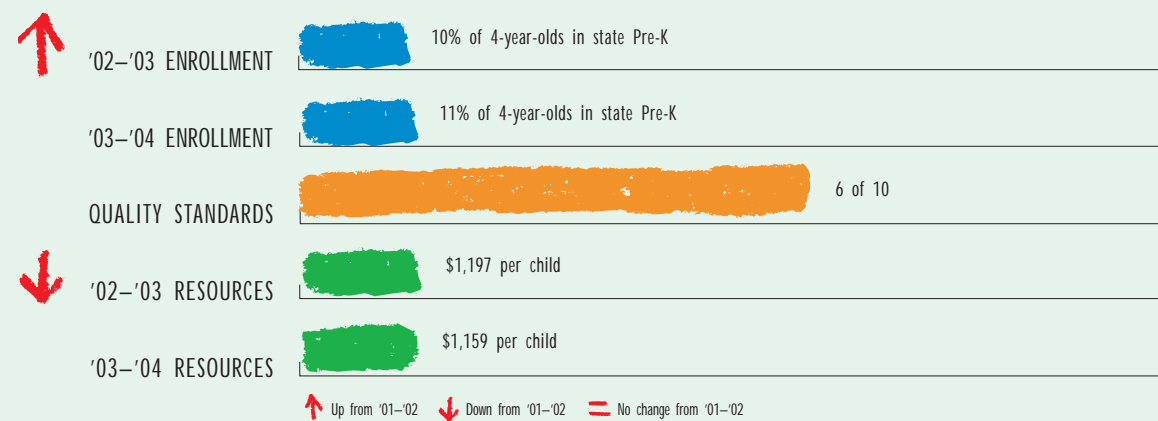


# Vermont



Started in 1987, Vermont's Early Education Initiative (EEI) provides grants to increase the accessibility of preschool programs in the state's communities. Public schools, Parent-Child Centers, private child care programs, and Head Start agencies receive direct funding from the state. Collaborative planning is an EEI requirement, and state prekindergarten funds must be coordinated with other resources and programs. The EEI program provides preschool access for 3- and 4-year-old children who are at risk. At least half of the enrollees must come from families with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Children are also eligible to enroll if they possess risk factors such as exposure to violence, neglect or substance abuse, low parental education levels, social isolation, limited English proficiency, or developmental delay.

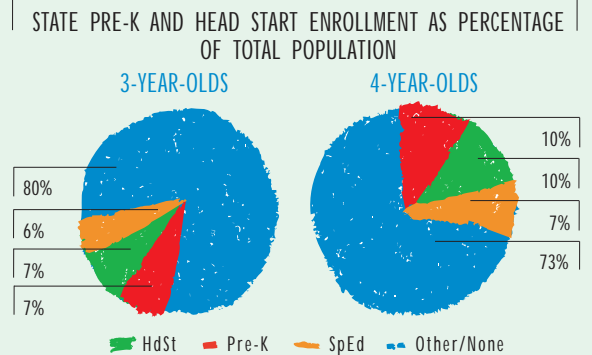
The Vermont Early Learning Standards have recently become a curricular requirement for EEI programs, and professional development programs for Pre-K and kindergarten teachers have been aligned with these standards.

State funding for EEI has remained level for the past 5 years. Due to inflation, this has diminished the value of the grants received by programs, resulting in reductions in enrollment and intensity of services. In 2003-2004, the state provided \$1,328,785 in funding for the EEI program to support 440 3-year-olds and 692 4-year-olds.



## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment - 1,110  
 School districts that offer state program - 57% (towns)  
 Income requirement - 50% of children must be below 185% FPL  
 Hours of operation - Determined locally<sup>1</sup>  
 Operating schedule - Determined locally<sup>2</sup>  
 Special education enrollment - 838  
 Federally funded Head Start enrollment - 1,109  
 State-funded Head Start enrollment - 0



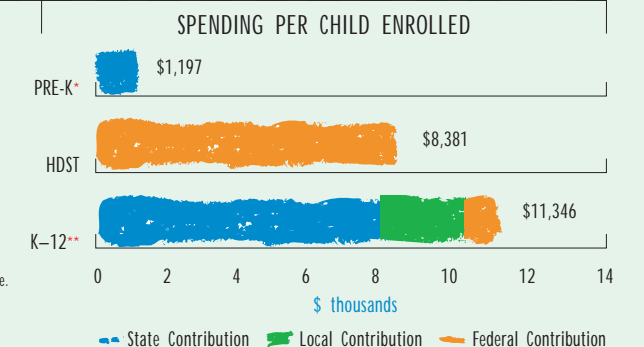
## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Degree in EC <sup>3</sup>	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	BA (public), Determined locally (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	9 cr. hours/7 years (public), 9 clock hours/year (nonpublic)	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	16		
4-year-olds	16		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:8		
4-year-olds	1:8		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision, hearing, health, and developmental <sup>4</sup>	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	2 parent conferences and support services <sup>5</sup>	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	Varies <sup>6</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL:  
**6**  
of 10

## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending - \$1,328,785  
 Local match required? - No  
 State spending per child enrolled - \$1,197  
 State spending per 3-year-old - \$84  
 State spending per 4-year-old - \$117



\* 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 '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Programs operate for an average of 10.5 hours per week.  
<sup>2</sup> Public school and Head Start programs generally follow the academic year, while programs in child care centers usually operate throughout the calendar year.  
<sup>3</sup> Additionally, public school teachers are required to have an EC license/endorsement that covers children age 3-Grade 3, and an ECSE license that covers ages 3 to 6.  
<sup>4</sup> All districts conduct vision, hearing and general health screenings for 3- to 5-year-olds in conjunction with a district-wide developmental screening. As children participate in general preschool screenings to determine eligibility, they receive services (e.g., vision, health, etc.). Therefore, all children benefit from screening and referrals, even those not found to be eligible for EEI. General eligibility screenings are mandatory for participation in EEI.  
<sup>5</sup> Year-round programs are required to offer three parent conferences. Additional support services include education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.  
<sup>6</sup> The meal requirement depends on length of the program day. A snack is required per 3-hour program; a meal plus a snack is required for any program running over 4 hours.