Vermont’s Early Education Initiative, started in 1987, provides grants to communities to expand the availability of pre-kindergarten services to children deemed at-risk of school failure and to fill gaps in existing programs. Grantees may be schools, Head Start agencies, or child care programs; when grantees are school districts, the state education funding formula is used. The state requires collaborative planning so that funds for the pre-kindergarten initiative are coordinated with other resources and programs. The initiative serves children ages 3 to 5 with family incomes below 225 percent of poverty or who have other risk factors, such as having developmental delays, being at risk of abuse or neglect, or having limited English proficiency. Additional risk factors taken under consideration are exposure to violence and substance abuse, social isolation, and a history of poor educational attainment by parents.

In recent years, funding levels for Vermont’s Early Education Initiative have been static, leading to some reductions in enrollment and in intensity of services. The 2002–2003 funding level was $1,380,000 with 456 3-year-olds and 644 4-year-olds enrolled.

### RESOURCES

- **Total state Pre-K spending**: $1,380,000
- **State spending per child enrolled**: $1,379
- **State spending per 3-year-old**: $73
- **State spending per 4-year-old**: $119

### ACCESS

- **Total state program enrollment**: 1,001
- **School districts that offer state program**: 57%
- **State-funded Head Start enrollment**: 0
- **Federally-funded Head Start enrollment**: 1,150

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

- **Curriculum standards**: None
- **Teacher degree requirement**: Bachelor’s degree
- **Staff-child ratio**: 1:8
- **Screening/referral requirements**: Determined locally
- **Family support service requirements**: 2 parent conferences
- **Meal requirements**: None

### POLICY

- **State contribution**: $1,379
- **Local contribution**: $1
- **Federal contribution**: $8,279

### RESOURCES

- **Total Pre-K spending**: $1,380,000
- **Local match required**: No
- **State spending per child enrolled**: $1,243
- **State spending per 3-year-old**: $73
- **State spending per 4-year-old**: $119

### ACCESS

- **Total state program enrollment**: 1,001
- **Income requirement**: Determined locally
- **School districts that offer state program**: 57%
- **State-funded Head Start enrollment**: 0
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### RESOURCES

- **Total Pre-K spending**: $1,380,000
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- **State spending per 4-year-old**: $119

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1. The minimum operating schedule is 10 hours per week and 32 weeks per year. Public school and Head Start programs generally follow the academic year, while child care usually operates throughout the calendar year.
2. All states conduct vision and hearing screenings for children 3- to 5-year-old in conjunction with a developmental screening.
3. Support services to enrolled families are offered (mostly through referrals), but are not required.

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

**Policy:**
- **State contribution**
- **Local contribution**
- **Federal contribution**

**Resources:**
- **Total Pre-K spending**
- **Local match required**
- **State spending per child enrolled**
- **State spending per 3-year-old**
- **State spending per 4-year-old**

**Quality Standards Checklist:**
- **Curriculum standards**
- **Teacher degree requirement**
- **Staff-child ratio**
- **Screening/referral requirements**
- **Family support service requirements**
- **Meal requirements**

**Enrollment as Percentage of Total Population:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
<td>1,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td>1,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**State Pre-K and Head Start Enrollment as Percentage of Total Population:**

- **3-year-olds**: 1,001 (5%)
- **4-year-olds**: 1,150 (5.5%)