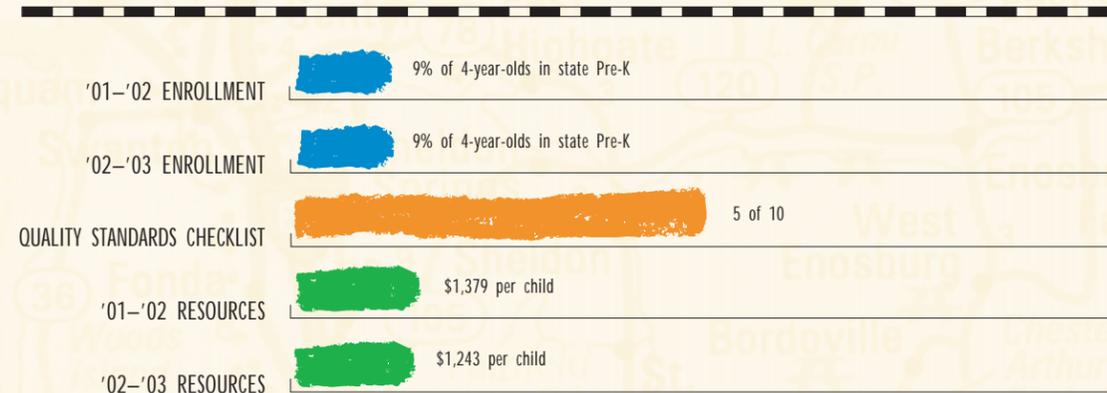


Vermont



Vermont's Early Education Initiative, started in 1987, provides grants to communities to expand the availability of prekindergarten 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 prekindergarten 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.

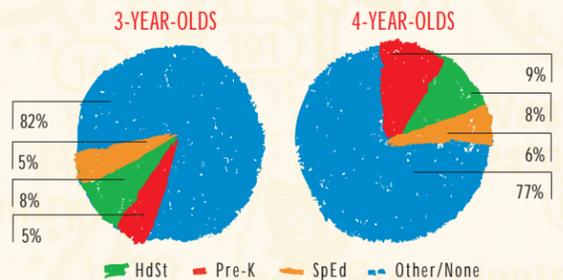
In recent years, funding levels for Vermont's Early Education Initiative have been static, leading to some reductions in enrollment and in intensity of services. The 2002-2003 funding level was \$1,380,000 with 456 3-year-olds and 644 4-year-olds enrolled.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,001
School districts that offer state program	57%
Income requirement	225% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Determined locally ¹
Special education enrollment	761
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	1,150
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

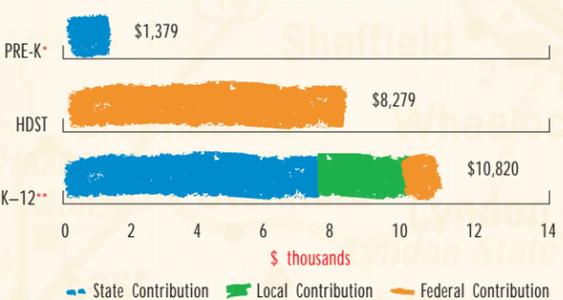
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Degree in early education	Specializing in EC	<input 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	Determined locally ²	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	2 parent conferences ³	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$1,380,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$1,379
State spending per 3-year-old	\$73
State spending per 4-year-old	\$119

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 '01-'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

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 districts conduct vision and hearing screenings for children 3 to 5 years old in conjunction with a developmental screening.

³ Support services to enrolled families are offered (mostly through referral), but are not required.