Washington

The Washington Business Roundtable championed early childhood education reform in the early 1980s, and in 1985 Washington state created the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). The program’s primary target is 4-year-olds in families at or below 110 percent of the federal poverty level. Three-year-olds are allowed to enroll only after eligible 4-year-olds have been served. Contractors from public schools, local governments, child care centers, and nonprofit organizations submit requests for funding through a grant process. Priority for new programs and/or increases in funded ECEAP slots goes to areas with the highest need. ECEAP contributes to preschoolers getting a good education through comprehensive services, including screenings and access to health care, parent education, and referrals to social services. As with Head Start programs, ECEAP programs follow a set of prescribed performance standards in providing prekindergarten services.

In 2002–2003, funding for ECEAP was $30,730,379. A total of 1,402 children younger than 4 and 5,516 children age 4 or older attended the program.

Until 2002, Washington also provided a state supplement for the federal Head Start program. Through this initiative, the state contributed $235,000 to enhance Head Start services during fiscal year 2002.

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

**POLICY**

- Curriculum standards
- Teacher degree requirement
- Teacher specialized training requirement
- Teacher in-service requirement
- Maximum class size
- Staff-child ratio
- Screening/referral requirements
- Family support service requirements
- Meal requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Does Requirement Meet Benchmark?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum standards</td>
<td>Not comprehensive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree requirement</td>
<td>BA (public), AA (nonpublic)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training requirement</td>
<td>Pre-K-3 endorsement or SpEd certification with EC endorsement (public), 30 quarter units in ECE (nonpublic)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:9</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/referral requirements</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health, and developmental</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family support service requirements</td>
<td>At least 3 services and 2 parent conferences</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meal requirements</td>
<td>Breakfast, lunch, and snack</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESOURCES**

- Total state Pre-K spending: $32,503,836
- State spending per child enrolled: $4,908
- State spending per 3-year-old: $82
- State spending per 4-year-old: $325
- Federally-funded Head Start enrollment: 9,156
- State-funded Head Start enrollment: 0

**ACCESS**

- Total state program enrollment: 6,622
- School districts that offer state program: Not reported
- State Head Start spending: $235,000
- State spending per 3-year-old: $82
- State spending per 4-year-old: $325

**POLICY STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT BENCHMARK DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Does Requirement Meet Benchmark?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Contribution</td>
<td>Local Contribution</td>
<td>Federal Contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data are for the ’01–’02 school year, unless otherwise noted.</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL:**

- Comprehensive Curriculum
- Specializing in EC
- CDA or equivalent
- At least 15 hours/year
- 20 or lower
- 1:10 or better
- Vision, hearing, and health
- At least 1 service
- At least 1/day
- At least 1 service
- At least 3/day

- Schools and districts are encouraged to meet or exceed these standards.