West Virginia

The Public School Early Childhood Education program grew out of a 1983 revision to the state school code allowing local school boards to create programs for prekindergarteners. Funding is provided to schools through their regular state education funding. Although the program currently serves 3- and 4-year-olds, beginning in July 2004, 4-year-olds will be targeted more exclusively. At that time, 3-year-olds will be eligible to participate only if they have Individualized Education Plans for special needs. Legislation approved in 2002 specifies that universal prekindergarten be made available to West Virginia’s 4-year-olds by the 2012–2013 school year; 50 percent of the classrooms in the planned universal program must be in collaborative settings with Head Start, child care, or private prekindergarten providers.

During the 2002–2003 year, there were 7,727 children enrolled in the Public School Early Childhood Education program, which received $19,923,934 in state funds.

### ACCESS

- **Total state program enrollment**: 7,727
- **State spending per child enrolled**: $2,486
- **State spending per 3-year-old**: $240
- **State spending per 4-year-old**: $672
- **Federally-funded Head Start enrollment**: 6,813
- **State-funded Head Start enrollment**: 0

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

#### POLICY

- **Curriculum standards**: None
- **Teacher degree requirement**: B.A.
- **Teacher specialized training requirement**: CDA or equivalent
- **Staff-child ratio**: 1:10 or better
- **Screening/referral requirements**: None
- **Family support service requirements**: None
- **Meal requirements**: Varies

#### RESOURCES

- **Total state Pre-K spending**: $19,923,934
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### RANKING

- **ACES RANKING-4s**: 6
- **ACES RANKING-3s**: 3
- **RESOURCES RANKING**: 24

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1. As of 2002, the ratio requirement is 1:10 statewide, with one certified teacher mandated in each classroom.
2. Meal requirements depend on the hours of operation.
4. West Virginia did not break its total enrollment figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, these calculations are estimates, based on proportions of enrollees who were ages 3 and 4 in states that served 3-year-olds and provided age breakdowns for 2001–2002.

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