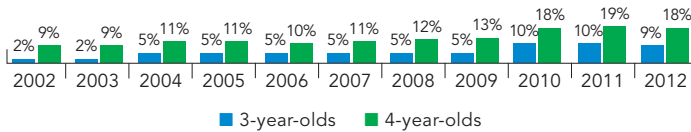


# California

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2012 DOLLARS)



In 1965, California introduced the State Preschool Program (SPP) and became one of the first states in the nation to provide state-funded preschool education. It offers services to children who are receiving protective services and those who are at risk for abuse, neglect, or family violence. The Prekindergarten and Family Literacy Program (PKFLP), modeled after SPP, was established in the 2007-2008 school year. The PKFLP offered half- and full-day services with an added literacy component to children from families at or below 70 percent of the state median income (SMI).

The California State Preschool Program Act, enacted in 2008, called for the state’s multiple preschool programs to receive streamlined funding. In July 2009, all part-day and full-day programs in PKFLP, SPP, and the General Child Care programs that served preschool age children were consolidated in the California State Preschool Program (CSPP). The CSPP provides services to 3- and 4-year-olds through local education agencies, private nonprofit agencies, college, and community agencies. To be eligible, families must have an income of 70 percent of the SMI, though this may be waived for children receiving protective services or those who have been referred as at risk of abuse, exploitation, or neglect. The newly streamlined CSPP served students for the first time during the 2009-2010 school year.

School districts, faith-based and private child care centers, Head Start Agencies, and other public agencies are eligible to apply for state funding through a competitive application process. Based on families’ eligibility and service needs, the CSPP provides both full-day and part-day services. Children whose families lose their eligibility for full-day services may remain in the part-day program through the end of the program year. The CSPP works with Head Start and other state-funded and federal care assistance programs to provide comprehensive services to children and their families.

Under the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010, the state gradually moved the kindergarten cutoff age from December to September to ensure that all children are 5 years old at the beginning of kindergarten. Transitional Kindergarten was created by the Act and provides a two-year kindergarten to those 4-year-olds no longer age-eligible for the one-year kindergarten beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Transitional Kindergarten follows the kindergarten regulations regarding funding, class size, standards, and serving English language learners, though locally determined kindergarten curricula must be adjusted to be age and developmentally appropriate. Students enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten are considered to be in the first year of a two-year kindergarten program rather than in pre-K.

The state received a grant under the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) that will be used to implement a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to support quality improvement efforts in areas of child development and school readiness, teachers and teaching, and program and environment quality. The grant is not specific to the pre-K program but rather is for early learning more generally in the state.

The California Preschool Learning Foundations were developed in 2008 as a set of early learning standards focusing on social-emotional development, language and literacy, mathematics, and English language development. Released in December 2011, Volume 2 focused on visual and performing arts as well as physical development and health. The Desired Result for Children and Families system, aligned with the Preschool Learning Foundations Volume I, is used to record the development of children and to plan curriculum and other developmentally appropriate activities. Preschool foundations in history/social science and science will be included in the third volume in 2013.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
24	6

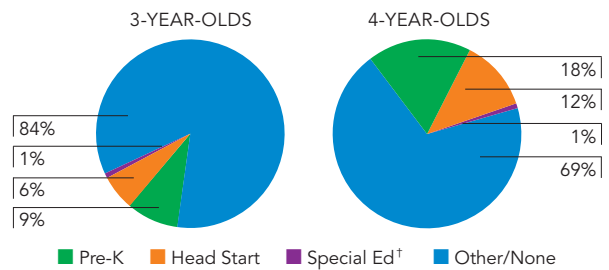
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
16	20

# CALIFORNIA STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	143,996
School districts that offer state program .....	97% (counties)
Income requirement .....	70% SMI <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation .....	3 hours/day (part-day), or 6 hours/day (school-day); 5 days/week <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Determined locally <sup>2</sup>
Special education enrollment .....	43,919
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4 .....	93,210
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



<sup>†</sup> This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive <sup>3</sup>	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	California Child Development Associate Teacher Permit <sup>4</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	Meets CDA requirements <sup>4</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD or equivalent <sup>5</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	105 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	No limit <sup>6</sup>		
4-year-olds .....	No limit		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	1:8 <sup>6</sup>		
4-year-olds .....	1:8		
Screening/referral and support services .....	Health, developmental; and support services <sup>7</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Depend on length of program day <sup>8</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Other monitoring <sup>9</sup>	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

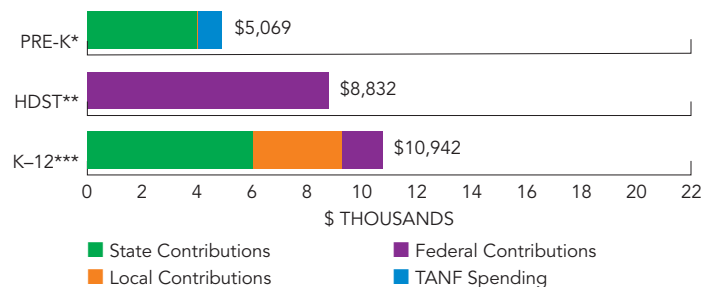
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## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$728,223,316
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$4,136
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$5,069

\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.  
 \*\* Head Start per-child spending for the 2011-2012 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.  
 \*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



<sup>1</sup> Children receiving protective services, whose families are homeless or receiving CalWORKS cash aid, or who are at risk for abuse, neglect, or exploitation are not subject to the income requirement.  
<sup>2</sup> The part-day program is funded to operate at least 3 hours per day for a minimum of 175 days per year. The school-day program is funded to operate at least 6 hours per day for a minimum of 246 days per year. The majority of programs currently operate approximately 10 hours per day.  
<sup>3</sup> The Preschool Learning Foundations Volume 2, which includes visual and performing arts, physical development and health, was released in December 2011 and in effect for the 2011-2012 school year. Volume 3 will be released in 2012 and will include history/social science and science.  
<sup>4</sup> The Child Development Associate Teacher permit is the minimum requirement for the lead teacher in the classroom, though California does not use the term "lead teacher" and exceeds the requirement of the CDA. The permit requires 12 units in ECE or child development and 50 days of work experience in an instructional capacity. It may be renewed one time for a five-year period. A CDA credential issued in California meets temporary alternative qualifications for the Associate Teacher permit. A teacher may also have the full Child Development Teacher permit, which requires a minimum of 40 semester units of education including a minimum of 24 units in ECE or child development, and 175 days of work experience, or a Master Teacher permit.

<sup>5</sup> Assistant teachers in the California State Preschool Program are required to have a High School Diploma or equivalent. The optional Child Development Assistant Teacher Permit requires six credits in ECE or CD.  
<sup>6</sup> Although there is no limit to class size, programs typically enroll 24 children in the class.  
<sup>7</sup> Immunizations and physical and developmental assessments are required by Title 22. If these screenings are not provided by the parents, local programs must address them. Support services include annual parent conferences or home visits, parent education or job training, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, child health services, referral for social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.  
<sup>8</sup> Licensing laws and regulations require that all part-day programs provide at least a snack. One or two meals and two snacks are required for all programs longer than 6 hours. Contractors must meet the nutritional requirements specified by the federal Child Care Food Program or the National School Lunch Program.  
<sup>9</sup> As of the 2010-2011 school year, California has moved from a regularly scheduled visit policy, to a new monitoring schedule that is determined based upon program information (consultant communication with agency staff, audit information, fiscal information, other concerns), which result in only 'as-needed' site visits.