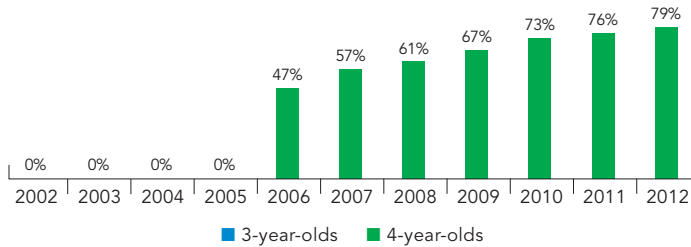
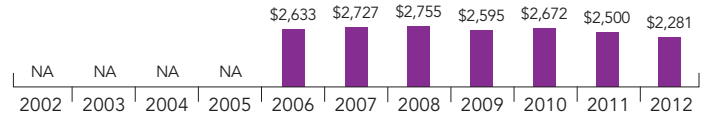


Florida

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2012 DOLLARS)



Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program was created as a result of the 2002 state constitutional amendment requiring prekindergarten access for all of Florida's 4-year-olds. The program began operating in 2005, enrolling approximately 100,000 children. Since then, enrollment has increased to more than 175,000 children served in the 2011-2012 program year. VPK was jointly administered in 2011-2012 by Florida's Office of Early Learning, the Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Families. In 2011, Florida's Office of Early Learning was removed from Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation and established as an independent agency administratively linked to DOE.

Age-eligible children can enroll in either a school year (totaling 540 instructional hours) or a summer program (totaling 300 instructional hours) depending on space availability. All school districts are required to offer a summer program. The school-year program requires teachers to have at least a Child Development Associate (CDA) or equivalent credential. The summer program requires teachers to have obtained a bachelor's degree. More than 50 percent of the lead teachers possess a Child Development Associate or associate degree. In 2011-2012, programs were required to follow the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds which was adopted by the State Board of Education in 2011.

VPK is offered in different settings such as accredited non-public schools, public schools, family child care homes, accredited faith-based centers, and licensed child care centers. More than 80 percent of the children are served in non-public school settings such as child care centers, Head Start, and faith-based programs. Regional early learning coalitions administer VPK, including distributing funds to VPK programs based on a fixed hourly rate and monitoring programs for compliance.

The VPK program is reviewed annually as part of the legislative appropriation process and funding is determined by the legislative body. VPK is assessed annually based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS), composed of FAIR and ECHOS, administered within the first 30 days of kindergarten, comparing both children and programs that participated in VPK to those that did not. Legislation adopted in 2011 requires the State Board of Education to periodically adopt a minimum kindergarten readiness rate to assess satisfactory delivery of the VPK Education Program by providers and schools. Beginning with the 2011-2012 program year the state changed the requirements for children to be ready for kindergarten to require that children be rated as proficient on both the ECHOS and FAIR components of FLKRS. Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, all providers are required to administer the Florida VPK assessment. Results from the first and third assessment periods will be collected and used as a pre- and post-assessment to demonstrate learning gains.

Florida's School Readiness Program, a separate initiative begun in 1999, expanded in 2001 by incorporating two other state programs—the Prekindergarten Early Intervention Program, which focused on young children's health, and the State Migrant Prekindergarten Program, which focused on 3- and 4-year-olds whose parents are fishing or migrant workers—offers qualified parents financial assistance for child care. This report focuses solely on the VPK program.

* Percentages served prior to 2010 are not perfectly comparable to 2010, 2011, or 2012. The latter figures use data from the 2010 Census whereas the earlier figures are based on population estimates.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
1	None Served

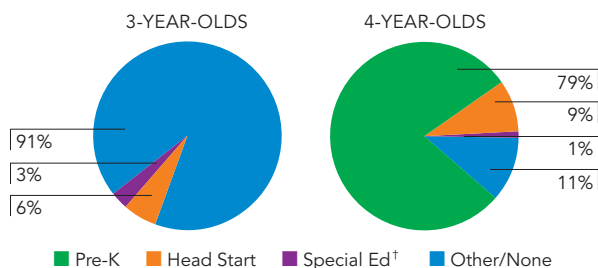
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
35	38

FLORIDA VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	175,122
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement.....	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	540 hours/year (school year program); 300 hours/year (summer program) ¹
Special education enrollment	21,007
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4	33,954
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



[†] 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	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (summer); CDA or equivalent (school year) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	EC or EE certification (summer); Meets CDA requirements (school year) ²	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	40 clock hours ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	10 clock hours ⁴	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	12 (summer); 18 (school year) ⁵		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds.....	1:12 (summer); 1:11/2:12-20 (school year) ⁵		
Screening/referral	Determined locally ⁶	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁷	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

3

RESOURCES

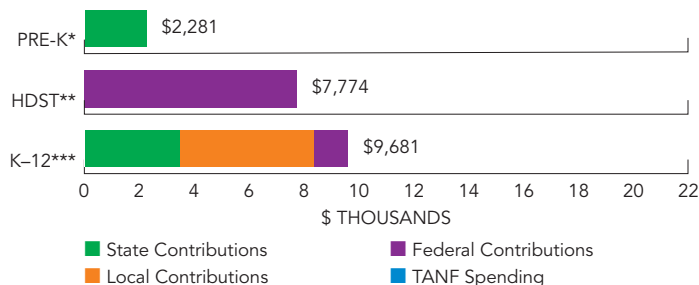
Total state pre-K spending	\$399,463,552
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,281
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,281

* 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



¹ VPK programs may choose to operate a summer program, totaling at least 300 hours of service, or a school year program, totaling at least 540 hours of service. The operating schedule and hours are determined locally, but the average number of hours per day for a 180-day, 540-hour program is 3 and the average number of hours per day for the 300-hour summer program is 8. Most programs operate 5 days per week.

² Teacher qualification requirements are different for the summer and school year programs. Teachers in the summer programs must have a BA in early childhood, primary or preschool education, prekindergarten disabilities, or family and consumer science. Teachers in the school year programs are required to have a CDA or equivalent. Summer and school year teachers must have completed a Department of Education course on emergent literacy.

³ Assistant teachers do not have to meet any degree requirements, but must complete a 40-hour training for licensed child care providers.

⁴ Child care personnel with state credentials must earn 4.5 CEUs every five years. Lead teachers with a CDA are required to have 10 clock hours of professional development per year. For teachers with a BA and certification, the requirement is 120 clock hours per 5 years.

⁵ During a special legislative session in 2009, the Legislature adjusted the staff-child ratio for the summer program from 1:10 to 1:12. The maximum class size is now 12. The staff-child ratio for the school year program was changed in the 2011-2012 school year, with one teacher required for classes of up to 11 students, and a second staff member required in classes of 12-20 students.

⁶ All children participating in programs in licensed child care facilities or public schools must have evidence of vision, hearing, and immunization/general physical health screenings. For public school programs, referrals for further follow-up, as appropriate, are also required.

⁷ Meals and snacks are required for extended-day programs.