Since the program began in 1994, the Delaware Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) has provided comprehensive early learning services for Head Start-eligible 4-year-olds. Modeled after the federal Head Start program, ECAP requires participating programs to follow Head Start Performance Standards. Ten percent of enrollment slots are reserved for children with disabilities; the remainder of children must live in families whose income is at or below 100% FPL. The 2007 Head Start Reauthorization Act allowed children living in households with incomes between 100 and 130% FPL to comprise, at most, 35% of the programs’ funded enrollment.

Community Needs Assessment Data determine who receive ECAP grants, which are available to for-profit child care, Head Start agencies, public schools, and private and faith-based centers.

Delaware Stars is the quality rating improvement system (QRIS) for early childhood programs, which aligns with the Head Start Performance Standards. Since December 2012, all ECAP programs must participate in the Delaware Stars QRIS. ECAP-only programs that do not receive mixed funding, if successfully monitored, can participate in an alternate pathway to QRIS and enter with a Star 4 rating. All ECAP programs are required to maintain at least a Star 4 rating.

In the 2017-2018 school year, 3-year-olds will be eligible for ECAP-funded enrollment in order to move toward a system of continuity within the state.
DELAWARE EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECAP)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ............................................................. 843
School districts that offer state program ........... 100% (counties/parishes)
Income requirement ............................................................... 100% FPL
Minimum hours of operation ...................... 3.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ... Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................................. 1,259
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 1,573
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............... 272

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>DE PRE-K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>NEW BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA (public); AA (nonpublic)</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE, CD, ECE SpEd†</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>90 hours/5 years (public teachers); 18 hours/year (nonpublic teachers &amp; assistants); 15 hours/5 years (public assistants); PD plans; coaching per QRIS</td>
<td>For teachers: At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more; Support services</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; at least one support service</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Lunch, snack</td>
<td>At least one meal/day</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Discontinued</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations in randomly selected classroom (less than once/year); Improvement plan</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ............................................................. $6,149,300
Local match required? ................................................................. No
State Head Start spending .............................................................. Not reported
State spending per child enrolled ............................................. $7,295
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................... $7,295

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

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

- Pre-K
- Head Start†
- Special Ed††
- Other/None

† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
†† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

RESOURCES

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Local match required? ................................................................. No
State Head Start spending .............................................................. Not reported
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