New Hampshire does not have a state-funded pre-K program, as defined in this report. However, the state provides support for early childhood education through other means. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) licenses early childhood programs and administers preschool scholarships through its child-care assistance program for low-income families. The Department of Education (DOE) oversees early childhood special education programming and progress monitoring of IDEA Part B funded preschool programs. New Hampshire school districts also use Title I funds and local funds to implement voluntary preschool programs in public schools. In 2014-2015, Title I funding totaling $1.7 million was spent on early childhood learning programs in the state. Through IDEA Part B and Title I, 27% of 4-year-olds in New Hampshire were supported in 2014-2015.


Groups of stakeholders in the state, including DHHS, DOE, and the Spark New Hampshire Early Childhood Advisory Council, are working together to align birth through age 8 efforts. Together, along with private partners, these groups contributed time and resources to early childhood systems-building in the state and submitted New Hampshire’s ultimately unsuccessful Preschool Development Grant Application.

The New Hampshire Early Learning Guidelines were introduced in 2005 and address development and learning for children birth through age 5. The guidelines cover multiple domains including approaches to learning, communication and literacy development, social and emotional development, physical development, creative expression and aesthetic development, and health and safety. The guidelines are aligned with New Hampshire’s academic standards as well as New Hampshire Kindergarten Readiness Indicators. The state’s new Early Learning Standards, released in 2015, align with the New Hampshire College and Career Ready Standards, by expanding to include emergent literacy, early numeracy, and science and social studies.

The Child Development Bureau within the Department of Health and Human Services administers New Hampshire’s Quality Rating and Improvement System which is currently under revision. Categories of standards in the proposed revision include: Curriculum, Environment, and Assessment; Engaging Families and Communities as Partners; Early Childhood Administrator and Educator Qualifications; and Measured Standards of Environmental Quality and Teacher-Child Interactions using the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) and Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), respectively.
NEW HAMPSHIRE

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................................. 0
School districts that offer state program ........................................... NA
Income requirement .......................................................................... NA
Minimum hours of operation ............................................................. NA
Operating schedule ........................................................................... NA
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................................. 2,142
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ........... 1,255
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ...................... 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

State Pre-K and Head Start Enrollment as Percentage of Total Population

3-YEAR-OLD

4-YEAR-OLD

Pre-K 9% 86%
Head Start 5% 5%
Special Ed†† 7% 9%
Other/None 89% NA

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

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ................................................................. $0
Local match required? ................................................................. NA
State Head Start spending ............................................................... $0
State spending per child enrolled ...................................................... $0
All reported spending per child enrolled* ........................................... $0

* 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.

NO PROGRAM

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

$0 $9,632 $18,306
PRE-K* HDST** K-12***

$ THOUSANDS

State contributions Federal contributions
Local contributions TANF spending