Oklahoma started its Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program in 1980 with the intent of serving all 4-year-olds in the state. In 1990, the program received statewide funding for 4-year-olds eligible for the federal Head Start program, but local areas could choose to serve additional 4-year-olds through local funds or tuition. In 1998, Oklahoma became the second state in the nation to provide free preschool for all 4-year-olds, with 99% of school districts providing the program. Approximately 74% of the state’s 4-year-olds are enrolled in the program. Most of these children (84% of enrollment) are in full-day programs. Schools can collaborate with other agencies and programs to provide extended-day services.

Through the state’s school finance formula, public school districts receive funding for the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program. A per-pupil rate, calculated using the age of the child and the length of the program day, is used to repay districts. Oklahoma was hit hard by the 2008-2009 recession, and state tax revenue in recent years has only recently climbed back to levels seen in 2009. The Oklahoma legislature has increased the share of total tax funding revenue going to education, enabling spending per pupil to remain fairly steady in recent years.

Districts can support centers other than public schools by placing public school teachers in child-care centers, Head Start settings, and community-based programs. Children in these sites receive the same services as children in public school locations and are considered public school enrollees.

In 2016, Oklahoma adopted the Oklahoma Academic Standards, which created vertically aligned pre-K to 12th grade standards. The Oklahoma State Department of Education is providing continuous professional development and support to help districts successfully implement these standards to strengthen pre-K programs and provide effective instruction and learning beyond the early years. Oklahoma is investigating the use of an Early Learning Inventory, which will assess the strengths and needs of students at the beginning of kindergarten. Oklahoma plans to pilot the Early Learning Inventory during the 2017-2018 school year and implement it statewide over the next few years.
OKLAHOMA EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUR-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .......................................................... 41,241
School districts that offer state program ........................................... 99%
Income requirement .........................................................No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ........................................ 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................... School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......................... 4,438
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .............. 14,353
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ...................... 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>OK 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 with other state standards, supported</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&lt;sup&gt;10&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE&lt;sup&gt;10&lt;/sup&gt;</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&lt;sup&gt;11&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>75 hours/5 years; coaching (new teachers only)</td>
<td>For teachers:</td>
<td>✓ For teachers: At least 15 hours/year</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 (3- &amp; 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 (3- &amp; 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, immunizations; 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 and/or breakfast&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</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>Site visits&lt;sup&gt;17&lt;/sup&gt;</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 .......................................................... $143,368,061
Local match required? .................................................................. No
State Head Start spending .......................................................... $1,818,051
State spending per child enrolled ................................................. $3,476
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................................. $7,479

* 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

3-YEAR-OLD

- Pre-K: 82%
- Head Start*: 15%
- Special Ed<sup>††</sup>: 3%
- Other/None

4-YEAR-OLD

- Pre-K: 74%
- Head Start*: 12%
- Special Ed<sup>††</sup>: 14%
- Other/None

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

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .......................................................... $143,368,061
Local match required? .................................................................. No
State Head Start spending .......................................................... $1,818,051
State spending per child enrolled ................................................. $3,476
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................................. $7,479

* 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.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- PRE-K*: $7,479
- HDST**: $6,850
- K-12***: $9,332

Data are for the 2015-2016 school year, unless otherwise noted.