South Dakota currently does not have a state-funded preschool program, as defined by this report; but the state does support early childhood education in several ways. In 2011, the South Dakota Bright Start Initiative began providing services to Native American children. The program focuses on infant brain development as well as early childhood development. The Head Start State Collaboration Office, within the Department of Education, oversees the early childhood special education and Birth to Three early intervention programs. The Division of Child Care Services within the Department of Social Services oversees licensing early childhood programs and administers direct child-care assistance payments to low-income families.

The South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines are used in all settings that serve children from birth to 5 years old and cover multiple domains including: health and physical development, creative arts, language and literacy, social studies, social-emotional development and approaches toward learning, mathematics, and science. The Guidelines are aligned with the South Dakota Content Standards for Kindergarten, which are part of the K-12 State Standards incorporating the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics. The University of South Dakota collaborated with the Head Start State Collaboration office and multiple other stakeholders to develop the guidelines.

Legislation to fund state preschool was recently introduced into the South Dakota legislature.
SOUTH DAKOTA

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 ................................. 1,488
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............... 3,740
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ....................... 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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

RESOURCES

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PRE-K* $0
HDST** $7,689
K-12*** $10,577

* 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.

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