Nevada’s state-funded Pre-K program, initially called the Early Childhood Education Comprehensive Plan when it began in 2001, is now referred to as the Nevada State Pre-Kindergarten Program (State PreK). State PreK programs operate in both community-based organizations and school districts. In 2015-2016, 65% of the school districts (11 out of 17) provided State PreK-funded programs or classrooms. Funding is made available through competitive grant applications and awards are determined based on community needs as stated in individual grant applications, but preference is given to 4- and 5-year-olds who will be eligible to attend kindergarten the following year. Children are also prioritized if they are from low-income families, homeless, English Language Learners, or receiving special education services. There is not an income requirement for program eligibility. In 2015-2016, nearly 98% of State PreK children were in public school programs operated by their local school districts.

Formed in 2013, the Office of Early Learning and Development (ELD) within the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is responsible for administering multiple early childhood state and federal funding sources including State PreK and the Preschool Development Grant (PDG). In 2014, Nevada was awarded a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant that expanded State PreK to a full-day for 493 of the 1,566 children enrolled in State PreK. An additional 289 children were served with PDG funds, but not enrolled in State PreK.

State funding for the State PreK program remained flat for 2015-2016 at $3.3 million, but enrollment in the program increased by 12% to 1,566 children. In order to fund the increased enrollment numbers, local districts either modified services, including limiting plans to expand to full-day programming, and/or supplemented state funds. State PreK was not able to continue funding its evaluation.
NEVADA STATE PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment........................................... 1,566
School districts that offer state program.............................. 65%
Income requirement......................................................... No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation.............................................. 2.5 hours/day
Operating schedule......................................................... Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4......................... 5,160
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4........... 2,640
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4................. 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>NV 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</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE</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>6 credit hours/5 years</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>16 (3-year-olds) 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>1:8 (3-year-olds) 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>Locally determined; 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>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 (more than once a year) in PDG classrooms; Improvement plan; sites visits††</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............................................. $3,338,875
Local match required?..................................................... No
State Head Start spending.................................................. $8,000
State spending per child enrolled.................................. $2,132
All reported spending per child enrolled*......................... $4,512

* 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

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

RESOURCES

- Total state pre-K spending: $3,338,875
- Local match required: No
- State Head Start spending: $8,000
- State spending per child enrolled: $2,132
- All reported spending per child enrolled*: $4,512

* 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.

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