Connecticut serves prekindergarten children in three state-funded programs: School Readiness Program (SRP), Child Day Care Contracts (CDCC), and Smart Start. As of July 2013, the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) provides oversight for these programs and has been working to better align them. Prior to the 2014-2015 school year, parent fees for participation in CDCC were re-determined every six months, which did not meet the NIEER definition of a state-funded preschool program, therefore excluding it from the Yearbook. Due to a policy change of re-calculating fees annually and the provision that allows families who become over-income to remain enrolled, CDCC is now included in the report.

SRP was founded in 1997 to increase access to early childhood programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. Financial support is available to 21 Priority School Readiness districts, as defined by legislation, and 46 Competitive School Readiness municipalities that have one or more schools in which 40% or more of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or are one of the communities identified within the 50 lowest wealth-ranked towns in the state, as defined by legislation. All families, regardless of income levels, can apply for School Readiness spaces in Competitive and Priority municipalities; however, 60% of children enrolled in each municipality must meet the income guideline of at-or-below 75% of the state median income (SMI). In 2016-2017, SRP enrolled 12,043 children in full-day, school-day, or part-day programs, a small decrease from the previous year. Fiscal year 2017 state funding decreased to $93 million, from $97.6 million the previous year.

Connecticut has provided funding for CDCC for 40 years through a purchase-of-service contracting system, which has been administered by OEC since 2013. CDCCs are jointly funded through state funding and the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) and must operate for at least 10 hours per day. In 2016-2017, there were 3,897 children served through CDCCs, which includes 2,252 preschool-aged children. Eligibility requirements target children with household incomes below 75% SMI with state funding and/or children with household incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level with SSBG funds. CDCC programs, which must be licensed as a child care facility by the state, may operate under the contract held by an elementary or secondary school, nursery school, preschool, day care center, group day care home, family day care home, family resource center, Head Start program, or local or regional board of education.

Smart Start was created during the 2014 legislative session with the intent of expanding publicly funded pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds in public school settings. Enrollment increased to 483 children in 2016-2017. Funding is distributed to local or regional boards of education through a competitive grant process. In 2016-2017, seventeen school districts received funding to offer, at minimum, a six-hour, five-day-a-week program that operated for at least 1,080 hours per year. In addition to the $2.4 million in state funds (Tobacco Settlement dollars) for operations, $1.1 million in state bonds were used for capital improvements.

Non-Head Start SRP, CDCC, and Smart Start programs must be NAECYC accredited. Pre-K programs operating within public schools, private child care centers, and faith-based settings have until the third anniversary of the first day children attend the program to achieve accreditation. To help prepare programs that are not accredited and to monitor quality, annual ECERS ratings by state approved raters are required.

In 2014, Connecticut was awarded a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant-Expansion. In 2016-2017, there were a total of 730 PDG-funded preschool spaces in the state, 439 were new preschool slots that operated separately from the three state-funded preschool programs, 256 spaces were dually funded in combination with SRP, and 35 spaces were dually funded with CDCC. These dually funded spaces are included in the programs’ total enrollment counts.

Connecticut’s contribution and commitment to state-funded prekindergarten, including state expenditure and enrollment for all three state programs are summarized in the first two pages of the state profile, followed by descriptions of CDCC, SRP, and Smart Start.
CONNECTICUT STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment.................................................. 14,778
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......................... 5,565
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............. 4,604
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4............... 441

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending................................................... $115,514,745
State Head Start spending................................................. $5,186,978
State spending per child enrolled....................................... $7,817
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......................... $10,020

ACCESS RANKINGS
4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS
20 11

RESOURCE RANKINGS
STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING
5 3

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
CURRENT STANDARDS NEW STANDARDS
5.2 4.9

Data are for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise noted.
CONNECTICUT CHILD DAY CARE CONTRACTS

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ............................................................. 2,252

School districts that offer state program ....... 28% (towns/communities)

Income requirement ................................................................. 75% SMI

Minimum hours of operation ................. 10 hours/day; 5 days/week

Operating schedule ..................................... Full calendar year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>CT CDCC 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, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></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>CDA + 12 EC credits</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>CDA + 12 EC credits</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>Based on Head Start or NAEYC</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>20 hours/year; PD plans (some teachers)</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 (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>Immunizations, full physical exam, no vision or hearing; 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>Breakfast, 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 (non-accredited programs); Data used for program improvement at state level only</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 ................................................. $18,891,519

Local match required? .......................................................... No

State spending per child enrolled ................................... $8,389

All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $15,364

* 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

- CT CDCC*: $15,364
- HDST**: $9,911
- K-12***: $23,153

Data are for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise noted.
CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ......................................................... 12,043
School districts that offer state program ..........40% (towns/communities)
Income requirement ................................................................. 75% SMI
Minimum hours of operation ...........................2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .............................................. Determined locally

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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

| POLICY                        | CT SR REQUIREMENT                  | CURRENT BENCHMARK | MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>CDA + 12 credits</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>CDA + 12 credits</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD (public); Based on Head Start or NAEYC (nonpublic)</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>9 hours/year (teachers only); PD plans (some teachers)</td>
<td>For teachers: At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Referral only; Support services</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; at least one support service</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Depends on length of program day</td>
<td>At least one meal/day</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring/ Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations (non-accredited programs); Site visits; Data used for program improvement</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEW BENCHMARK
MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?
Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | ✓
Approval process & supports | ✓
BA | —
Specializing in pre-K | ✓
CDA or equivalent | —
For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | —
20 or lower | ✓
1:10 or better | ✓
Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | —
Discontinued | —
Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan | —

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ......................................................... $93,035,775
Local match required? ................................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled ............................................... $7,725
All reported spending per child enrolled* ..................................... $9,125

* 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

TANF spending
State contributions
Local contributions
Federal contributions

Data are for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise noted.

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## CONNECTICUT SMART START

### ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ..................................................... 483
School districts that offer state program ...... 10% (towns/communities)
Income requirement ......................................................... No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .............. 6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ......................... School or academic year

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>CT SMART START 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>
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<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>Pre-K or EC</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>PD plans (teachers only)</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>18 (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>1:9 (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>None</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>None</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 (non-accredited programs); Data used for program improvement</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 .................................................. $3,587,451
Local match required? ....................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ........................................ $7,427
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $7,427

* 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

- **State contributions**
- **Federal contributions**
- **Local contributions**
- **TANF spending**

Data are for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise noted.