Maryland created the Extended Elementary Education Program (EEEP) in 1980 as a pilot preschool program in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County. The 2002 Bridge to Excellence in Public School Act created the Maryland Prekindergarten Program, which required all local boards of education to increase pre-kindergarten enrollment in public schools to all 4-year-olds from families with incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL) by the 2007-2008 school year.

In an effort to expand pre-K to children above 185% FPL, Maryland, in 2014, enacted the Prekindergarten Expansion Act, adding an additional $4.3 million per year to increase access to half-day and full-day public pre-K for 4-year-olds from families with household incomes at or below 300% FPL. This funding was extended to provide an additional $3.7 million in 2017-2018. In 2014, Maryland was awarded a Preschool Development Grant (PDG) of $15 million per year through fiscal year 2017. These funds, which can be used to support children from families with incomes at or below 200% FPL, have been used to serve 3,530 children in the state pre-K program. In 2016-2017, a total of 31,382 children participated in the Maryland Prekindergarten Program.

In addition to public prekindergarten, Maryland has 52 early learning centers of distinction known as Judy Centers, which are located in Title 1 school districts. The Judy Centers work collaboratively with select elementary schools to offer comprehensive, year-round services for children from birth to age 6.

The Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD), housed in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), is responsible for early care and education in Maryland. Funding for the Maryland Prekindergarten Program is based on the K–12 per pupil amount, prorated for the percent of children attending half- and full-day programs.

Maryland’s Division of Early Childhood Development, Early Learning Branch, monitors pre-K programs annually using a self-developed checklist. Through the required participation in Maryland EXCELS, the state’s QRIS, pre-K programs are able to access targeted technical assistance, both online and face-to-face.
MARYLAND PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................................................. 31,382
School districts that offer state program .............................................................. 100%
Income requirement ............................................................................................... 185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation ......................................................................... 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .................................................................................................School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..................................................... 8,359
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .................................... 8,393
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ........................................ 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>MD 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 (teachers); 24 hours/year (assistants); PD plans</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>Average of 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, health &amp; more; 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</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; 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 .................................................................................. $108,517,098
Local match required? ......................................................................................... No
State Head Start spending .................................................................................. $1,800,000
State spending per child enrolled ....................................................................... $3,458
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......................................................... $7,598

* 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*: $7,597
- HDST**: $8,729
- K-12***: $16,222

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

3-YEAR-OLD

- Pre-K: 37%
- Head Start: 5%
- Special Ed: 2%
- Other/None: 56%

4-YEAR-OLD

- Pre-K: 5%
- Head Start: 2%
- Special Ed: 7%
- Other/None: 87%

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

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