A part of Minnesota’s efforts to increase access to early childhood education for children birth to five, the state financially supplements Early Head Start and Head Start. All state-supported Head Start programs are required to follow the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIPs), Minnesota’s early learning standards birth to kindergarten entrance. ECIPs guide required training, support, and technical assistance for all program staff. The ECIPs, which were revised in 2017, are aligned with the English Language Arts Common Core standards for the early grades, the state’s college and career ready standards. The ECIPs are in process of being aligned with the newly revised Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

Minnesota spent $25.1 million to supplement federally funded Head Start and Early Head Start in the state during the 2016-2017 school year. The state served an additional 1,443 three- and four-year-olds in Head Start and 937 children under age three in Early Head Start. Grantees submit an annual plan to the state which describes how they will allocate funds between Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The $25.1 million allocation reflects a $5 million increase from 2015-2016.

Organizations receiving federal Head Start funding are eligible to receive other supplemental funding from the state. Head Start programs are eligible to receive funding directly or may subcontract with private child care, family child care, and public schools to provide the program. All programs formally partnered with Head Start are required to follow the federal Head Start Performance Standards.

A second state-funded preschool program, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, was established for the 2016-17 school year by Governor Dayton and the Legislature. This $27.092 million investment is funded through general education monies as a new grade level. Approximately 3,160 seats were allocated to 65 school districts and nine charter schools through an application and ranking process based on free and reduced-price lunch percentages of each elementary school in the state. The program operates 350 hours per year and serves children who are four years old by September 1. It is designed to prepare children for success as they enter kindergarten through high-quality early learning programs. The statutory standards build on existing School Readiness standards (see below) by requiring the use of a defined list of curriculum and assessment tools aligned with the early learning standards and Kindergarten Entry Assessment, paying knowledgeable teaching staff wages comparable to local K–12 teachers, observing teacher-child interactions to guide professional development using an approved instrument, involving parents in transition planning, and measuring the impact of the program through either a self- or state-designed tool. The legislature approved an expansion of VPK that will nearly double the number of children served in 2017-2018.

Minnesota has other state-supported early childhood initiatives that are not included in The State of Preschool 2017 yearbook. The Early Learning Scholarships Programs provides scholarships to eligible families in order to increase access to high-quality early childhood programs. Families with children between the ages of 3 and 4 years old as of September 1 are eligible for scholarships and can chose any early childhood program that receives a Three- or Four-Star Parent Aware Rating. During 2016-2017 school year, approximately 15,079 scholarships of up to $7,500 were awarded using an appropriation of $59.88 million.

The School Readiness Program aims to improve children’s kindergarten readiness through preschool education programs and home visits. While individual districts exercise local control over the programming and services provided, all programs must meet the following requirements: ensure children complete health and developmental screening within 90 days of program enrollment, involve parents in program planning and decision making, use comprehensive research-based program content, and coordinate with relevant community-based services. Early childhood programming and services may also be provided through subcontracts with community-based organizations, or charter schools.

Minnesota’s overall support for state prekindergarten, including enrollment and funding for both Minnesota Head Start and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, is shown in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses on Minnesota Head Start and the fourth page provides information about Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten.
MINNESOTA STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ......................................................... 4,603
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............................. 9,352
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............. 9,499
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................. 1,443

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ......................................................... $28,982,528
State Head Start spending ......................................................... $11,682,528
State spending per child enrolled .............................................. $6,296
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................... $7,339

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

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

3-YEAR-OLD  4-YEAR-OLD
88%  9%  7%
4%  6%  1%
7%  80%  7%

Pre-K  Head Start†  Special Ed††  Other/None
† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled 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.

ACCESS RANKINGS
4-YEAR-OLDS  3-YEAR-OLDS
37  24

RESOURCE RANKINGS
PRE-K  HEAD START  K-12
$ THOUSANDS
$7,339  $9,178  $14,681

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
CURRENT STANDARDS  NEW STANDARDS
6.3  6.6
MINNESOTA HEAD START

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment..........................1,443
School districts that offer state program....... 100% (counties/parishes)
Income requirement........................................... 100% FPL
Minimum hours of operation............. 3.5 hours/day; 4 days/week
Operating schedule................................. 128 days/year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | MN HDST REQUIREMENT | CURRENT BENCHMARK | MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK? | NEW BENCHMARK | MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive | ✓ | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | ✓
Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | New in 2015-2016 | — | Approval process & supports | ✓
Teacher degree | BA (public); AA (nonpublic) | BA | □ | BA | □
Teacher specialized training | ECE, CD, ECE SpEd | Specializing in pre-K | ✓ | Specializing in pre-K | ✓
Assistant teacher degree | CDA | CDA or equivalent | ✓ | CDA or equivalent | ✓
Staff professional development | 15 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching | For teachers: At least 15 hours/year | ✓ | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | ✓
Maximum class size | 15 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✓ | 20 or lower | ✓
Staff-child ratio | 2:15 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | ✓ | 1:10 or better | ✓
Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, health & more; Support services | Vision, hearing, health & at least one support service | ✓ | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | ✓
Meals | At least one meal/day | At least one meal/day | ✓ | Discontinued | —
Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system | Site visits; Monitoring data used for program improvement at state level only | Site visits | ✓ | Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan | —

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending..........................$11,682,528
Local match required?............................ Yes
State spending per child enrolled.........................$8,096†
All reported spending per child enrolled*.............$8,096

† 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$ THOUSANDS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN HDST*</td>
<td>$8,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td>$9,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12***</td>
<td>$14,681</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise noted.
MINNESOTA VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment........................................3,160
School districts that offer state program ............... 15% (school districts & charter schools)
Income requirement............................................No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation.................................Determined locally
Operating schedule...........................................School or academic year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>MN VPK REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>NEW BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
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<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
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<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
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<td>BA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
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<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>Determined locally</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>125 hours/5 years (licensed teachers only); PD plans (teachers only); Coaching</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 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<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>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; 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........................................$17,300,000
Local match required?...........................................No
State spending per child enrolled..............................$5,475
All reported spending per child enrolled*..........................$6,994

* 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPENDING</th>
<th>MN VPK*</th>
<th>HDST**</th>
<th>K-12***</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ THOUSANDS</td>
<td>$6,994</td>
<td>$9,178</td>
<td>$14,681</td>
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Data are for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise noted.