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 and nearly 98% of State PreK children were served in public school programs operated by their local school districts. During the 2016-2017 school year, 65% of 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.

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 created 550 new State PreK slots and expanded pre-K to a full-day for 200 of the 1,870 children enrolled in State PreK in 2016-2017. An additional 1,665 children were served with PDG funds, but not enrolled in State PreK.

State funding for the State PreK program increased by $1.5 million to 4.8 million in 2016-2017 due to the necessary state matching funds for PDG. Programs that receive PDG funding are required to participate in the state’s QRIS system.
NEVADA STATE PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment..................................................1,870
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 .........................5,046
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ........2,588
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>Screenings determined locally; 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 (PDG classrooms); Site visits; Monitoring 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 ..................................................$4,838,875
Local match required? ......................................................No
State Head Start spending ..................................................$0
State spending per child enrolled .................................$2,588
All reported spending per child enrolled* .......................$5,130

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

$5,130

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PRE-K* $5,130
HDST** $10,309
K-12*** $12,455

Funding breakdown:
- State contributions
- Federal contributions
- Local contributions
- TANF spending

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