Oklahoma started its Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program in 1980 with the intent of serving all 4-year-olds in the state. In 1990, the program received statewide funding for 4-year-olds eligible for the federal Head Start program, but local areas could choose to serve additional 4-year-olds through local funds or tuition. In 1998, Oklahoma became the second state in the nation to provide free preschool for all 4-year-olds, with 99% of school districts providing the program. Approximately 73% of the state’s 4-year-olds are enrolled in the program. Most of these children (87% of enrollment) are in full-day programs. Schools can collaborate with other agencies and programs to provide extended-day services.

Through the state’s school finance formula, public school districts receive funding for the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program. A per-pupil rate, calculated using the age of the child and the length of the program day, is used to repay districts.

Districts can support centers other than public schools by placing public school teachers in child-care centers, Head Start settings, tribal early childhood centers, universities and community-based programs. Children in these sites receive the same services as children in public school locations and are considered public school enrollees.

In 2016, Oklahoma adopted the Oklahoma Academic Standards, which created vertically aligned pre-K to 12th grade standards. The Oklahoma State Department of Education is providing continuous professional development and support to help teachers and administrators successfully implement these standards to strengthen pre-K programs and provide effective instruction and learning beyond the early years. During the 2017-2018 school year, individualized professional development plans will be piloted throughout the state and mandatory for all educators in 2018-2019.

Oklahoma continues to prioritize early learning initiatives in its ESSA plan with strategies that support the goal of ensuring at least 75% of students are “ready to read” upon kindergarten entry by 2025. Oklahoma is investigating the use of an early learning inventory, which will assess the strengths and needs of students at the beginning of kindergarten. Oklahoma is currently piloting early learning inventories.
OKLAHOMA EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUR-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .......................................................... 41,264
School districts that offer state program ........................................... 99%
Income requirement ................................................................. No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ......................................................... 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................................. School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................................. 4,766
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................. 14,059
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..................... 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>OK 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 with other state standards, supported</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>75 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>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, immunizations; 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 and/or breakfast</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 .......................................................... $144,470,607
Local match required? .............................................................. No
State Head Start spending .......................................................... $1,818,051
State spending per child enrolled .............................................. $3,501
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................... $7,428

* 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*: $7,428
- HDST**: $7,039
- K-12***: $9,604

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

- Pre-K
- Head Start†
- Special Ed††
- Other/None

† 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.