The state of Wyoming does not offer a state-funded preschool program according to definitions used in this report. However, the state does provide support for other early childhood education programs.

Local school districts can use a portion of Title I funding for early childhood education. The Department of Health administers a statewide developmental preschool system to provide IDEA services for 3- to 5-year-olds, and the Department of Family Services (DFS) uses TANF dollars to fund 26 schools in the state. The Department of Education administers the TANF programs through a competitive grant process which funds high-quality preschool services for children whose families qualify for TANF. In the 2014 budget, the Wyoming State Legislature appropriated $665,000 for an Early Childhood Community Partnership Grant program to develop, enhance, and sustain high-quality early childhood education programs. DFS administers these grant funds. DFS also licenses several programs through the University of Wyoming, community colleges, school districts, and private preschool and child care facilities to provide academic instruction. Both licensed and non-licensed programs are able to and do pursue accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The Wyoming Early Childhood State Advisory Council was created in 2010 and is a collaboration of individuals across multiple disciplines. The council’s mission is to serve Wyoming children and families by facilitating statewide collaboration, evaluating the early childhood system, and making recommendations to the governor, lawmakers, and state agencies. Wyoming also has an Early Intervention Council which focuses on children with special needs.

In 2013, the state adopted the comprehensive Wyoming Early Learning Foundations. The Foundations cover multiple domains including cognition and general knowledge, physical well-being/motor development, approaches toward learning, social/emotional development, and language development.
WYOMING

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment........................... 0
School districts that offer state program........... NA
Income requirement........................................ NA
Minimum hours of operation........................... NA
Operating schedule....................................... NA
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4........ 2,302
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4... 1,424
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.......... 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending................................. $0
Local match required?.................................... NA
State Head Start spending................................ $0
State spending per child enrolled....................... $0
All reported spending per child enrolled*............. $0

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

NO PROGRAM

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending................................. $0
Local match required?.................................... NA
State Head Start spending................................ $0
State spending per child enrolled....................... $0
All reported spending per child enrolled*............. $0

No local match required.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

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