Minnesota preschool programs enrolled 7,672 children in 2017-2018, an increase of 3,069 children from the prior year. State funding totaled $48,282,734, up $18,304,678 (61%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled $6,293 in 2017-2018, down $219 from 2016-2017, adjusted for inflation. Minnesota met an average of 5.5 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

What's New
The Minnesota Department of Education was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2018 for $4.7 million. The grant focuses on finding ways to better serve children facing racial, geographic, and economic inequities so they can be born healthy and thrive within their families and community through aligning and coordinating services and programs that families with young children use to make it easier to get the needed services.

Background
Minnesota financially supplements Head Start and Early Head Start programs in order to increase access to early childhood education for children birth to age five. 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 as well as the federal Head Start Performance Standards.

A second state-funded preschool program, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK), was established in 2016-2017 and funded through general education funds as a new grade level with children funded at 0.6 ADM. In 2017-2018, the state legislature created the School Readiness Plus (SRP) program, a variation of VPK. Districts could apply to be a VPK or SRP district; most chose to offer VPK. Funding for SRP will end after the 2019-2020 school year.

Across VPK and SRP, more than 6,000 seats were allocated to 111 school districts (including charter schools) at 191 public sites and 18 charter sites through an application and ranking process based on free and reduced-price lunch percentages of each elementary school in the state. The program operates a minimum of 350 hours per year and serves children who are 4-years-old by September 1.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten standards build on existing School Readiness standards by requiring the use of a defined list of curriculum and assessment tools aligned with the early learning standards and Kindergarten Entrance 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.

Minnesota has other state-funded early childhood initiatives that do not meet this report’s definitions of state preschool: The Early Learning Scholarships Programs provides scholarships to eligible families with children between the ages of 3 and 4 years old as of September 1 for early childhood programs earning a Three- or Four-Star Parent Aware Rating. The School Readiness Program, under local school district control, provides preschool education and home visits with a focus on health and development screening, parent engagement and community services.

Minnesota's overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for both Minnesota Head Start and VPK/SRP, is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on Minnesota Head Start and the fourth page provides information on VPK/SRP.
MINNESOTA STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................ 7,672
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..................... 9,352
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ........ 9,347
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 1,385

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ....................................... $48,282,734
State Head Start spending ....................................... $11,807,310
State spending per child enrolled ............................ $6,293
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................. $7,333

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-YEAR-OLD</th>
<th>4-YEAR-OLD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>88%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K (VPK/SRP).
†† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- PRE-K*: $7,333
- HDST**: $9,800
- K-12**: $14,817

- State contributions
- Federal contributions
- Local contributions
- TANF spending

* 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.

ACCESS RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCE RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE SPENDING</th>
<th>ALL REPORTED SPENDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
5.5
MINNESOTA HEAD START

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................. 1,385
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 ..................................................... 32 weeks/year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>MN HDST REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>AA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE, CD, ECE SpEd</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>CDA</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>15 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching</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>15 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>2:15 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement at a local level only</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending .............................................. $11,807,310
Local match required? .................................................. Yes
State spending per child enrolled ............................. $8,525
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................. $8,525

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>22</th>
<th>24</th>
<th>26</th>
<th>28</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN HDST*</td>
<td>$8,525</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td>$9,800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12***</td>
<td>$14,817</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.
MINNESOTA VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND SCHOOL READINESS PLUS

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................. 6,287
School districts that offer state program ........... 34% (school districts)
Income requirement .................................................. No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .......... 350 instructional hours/year
Operating schedule ............................................. School or academic year

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | MN VPK/SRP REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
--- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | ✓
Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | ✓
Teacher degree | Other | BA | □
Teacher specialized training | Other | Specializing in pre-K | □
Assistant teacher degree | Determined locally | CDA or equivalent | □
Staff professional development | 125 hours/5 years (licensed teachers only); PD plans (teachers only); Coaching | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | □
Maximum class size | 20 (4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✓
Staff-child ratio | 1:10 (4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | ✓
Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, health & more | Vision, hearing & health screenings; referral | ✓
Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement at the local level only | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | □

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending .............................................. $36,475,424
Local match required? .................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled ................................ $5,802
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $7,070

* 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

Data are for the 2017-2018 school year, unless otherwise noted.