
WHAT'S NEW
The New York Office of Children and Families was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2018 for $8.73 million to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and strengthen the state’s mixed-delivery system through activities including coordinated technical assistance, Kindergarten Transition Summits, parent information and engagement strategies, professional learning for early childhood educators, and better data integration, sharing, and tracking.

In 2017-2018, statutory budget language required all districts receiving state funds for pre-K to adopt approved quality indicators within two years, including, but not limited to, valid and reliable measures of environmental quality, the quality of teacher-student interactions, and child outcomes. To document districts’ progress in implementing the approved quality indicators, the State Education Department (SED) implemented the NYS Pre-K Self-Assessment. Districts rate themselves as Implemented, In Process, or Not Implemented. For each area marked In Process or Not Implemented, districts develop Quality Improvement Action Plans to assess strengths and weakness in seven areas of program quality. SED staff review the plans and provide feedback to inform technical assistance and monitoring.

BACKGROUND
In 1998, New York State began its Universal Prekindergarten Program (UPK) with the goal of making prekindergarten education available to all 4-year-olds in the state, regardless of family income or other risk factors. In 2007, the Targeted Prekindergarten Program merged with UPK.

In the 2013-2014 school year, the state continued targeting its pre-K funding, launching the New York State Priority Prekindergarten Program (NYSSPK) offering competitive grants creating new full- and half-day slots for high-need children in low-income school districts and enabling districts to convert half-day slots to full-day. In 2014-2015, the Statewide Universal Full-Day Prekindergarten Program (SUFDPK) competitive grant for full-day pre-K was launched. Most of this funding ($300 million) went to New York City, resulting in a dramatic boost in access to full-day pre-K slots for 4-year-olds; $40 million was used to expand full-day programs in the rest of the state. Funding could be used to create additional full-day placements or to convert existing half-day slots to full-day.

In 2015-2016, the Expanded Prekindergarten for 3- and 4-Year-Old Students grant began, creating new slots for both 3- and 4-year-olds. New York also was awarded a federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) supporting enrollment of additional low-income 4-year-olds in five school districts. In 2017-2018, over 75% of children were served in school-day programs.

The New York Board of Regents adopted revised comprehensive, multi-domain early learning standards in 2011 which are aligned with state K-3 standards, state college and career ready standards, and the New York State Common Core Learning Standards. New statewide P-12 Learning Standards for the Arts will be fully implemented in the 2018-2019 school year. In 2012, the state implemented a voluntary quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) called QUALITYstarsNY.
NEW YORK STATE ADMINISTERED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment: 121,572
School districts that offer state program: 70%
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: 45,529
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4: 41,497
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4: 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | NY PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | MEETS BENCHMARK?
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Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | ✓
Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | ✓
Teacher degree | MA (public); BA (nonpublic) | BA | ✓
Teacher specialized training | ECE, CD, ECE SpEd | Specializing in pre-K | ✓
Assistant teacher degree | Level I Teaching Assistant Certification (public); HSD (nonpublic) | CDA or equivalent | ✓
Staff professional development | 175 hours/5 years (teachers only) | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | ☐
Maximum class size | 20 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✓
Staff-child ratio | 1:9 (3- & 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 are determined locally | 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: $796,699,144
Local match required? Yes
State Head Start spending: $0
State spending per child enrolled: $6,553
All reported spending per child enrolled*: $6,801

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

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