OVERVIEW
California’s two preschool programs together enrolled 245,614 children in 2018-2019, an increase of 3,317 children from the prior year. State funding for the two programs totaled $2,027,027,473, up $105,860,705 (6%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child averaged $8,253 in 2018-2019, up $324 from 2017-2018, adjusted for inflation. In 2018-2019, state spending per child was $7,122 for the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and $9,775 for the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Program. California CSPP met 6 of 10 quality standards benchmarks and TK met 3 of 10.

WHAT’S NEW
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded California a renewal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Birth through Five (B–5) for $13.4 million each year for three years for a total of $40.2 million through December 30, 2022 to build state and local cross-system capacity and streamline governance to improve system efficiency. Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, children funded by CSPP and TK funding can be served in the same TK classroom. Classrooms consisting of commingled CSPP and TK children are intended to support student transition, allow school districts and charter schools to braid funding streams, and support the overall quality of the programs by requiring that standards from both programs are met.

As a step toward providing universal preschool to children from low-income families, as of January 1, 2020, CSPP providers in the attendance boundary of public schools with at least 80% of enrolled pupils eligible for FRPL, may enroll 4-year-olds from families living in the catchment area who exceed the income criteria after all eligible and interested children are enrolled. Additional changes to the CSPP as of July 1, 2019 included changing the age cutoff for 3-year-old and 4-year-old children from September 1st to December 1st, enabling slightly younger children to enroll, and increasing the ongoing income eligibility threshold from 70 to 85% of SMI, adjusted for family size.

BACKGROUND
In 2008, the California State Preschool Program Act created the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) by consolidating several early childhood initiatives into one funding stream. CSPP encompasses (1) the CSPP that began in 1965 for children at risk for neglect, abuse, or family violence, or receiving protective services; (2) the 2007 Prekindergarten and Family Literacy Program (PKFLP) which added a literacy component to CSPP; and (3) General Child Care programs.

CSPP provided part- and full-day preschool to 3- and 4-year-olds. During the 2018-2019 school year, families must have met one of the following eligibility criteria to enroll in CSPP: 1) income eligible, 2) receiving cash aid, 3) homeless, or 4) have a child who is receiving child protective services or is at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. For full-day CSPP, families must have also established at least one of the following: employment/seeking employment, education or vocational training, homelessness, or parental incapacity.

CSPP awards funding through a competitive application process to school districts, private and faith-based agencies, Head Start programs, higher education institutions, counties, cities, and tribal organizations. Children must remain eligible throughout the year to receive full-day services but can remain in part-day programs regardless of changes to eligibility. Teachers are required to have California Child Development Associate Teacher Permits, and can receive grants for professional learning. CSPP classrooms receive structured quality observations using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Revised Edition (ECERS-R) at least once a year.

California Transitional Kindergarten (TK) began during the 2012-2013 school year as a result of the kindergarten age eligibility moving from December 2 to September 1, as part of the state’s Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010. TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program for children born between September 2 and December 2. In June 2015 an amendment to state law allowed children turning 5 years old after December 2 to attend TK at the beginning of the school year, at the discretion of the local educational agency. TK follows kindergarten law for class size, teacher qualifications, program standards, funding, and serving English language learners. TK is profiled as a separate preschool program in this report.

California’s overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for both CSPP and TK, is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on CSPP and the fourth page provides information on TK.
CALIFORNIA STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................ 245,614
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..................... 52,307
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ...... 70,631
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 0

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ........................................ $2,027,027,473
State Head Start spending ........................................... $0
State spending per child enrolled ................................ $8,253
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................. $8,427

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE
3-YEAR-OLD
- Pre-K: 12%
- Head Start†: 7%
- Special Ed††: 3%
- Other/None: 78%

4-YEAR-OLD
- Pre-K: 38%
- Head Start†: 7%
- Special Ed††: 3%
- Other/None: 52%

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
- PRE-K*: $8,427
- HDST**: $12,992
- K-12***: $16,096

RESOURCES RANKINGS
STATE SPENDING
- California: 7
- All reported spending: 16

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
- California: 4.7

ACCESS RANKINGS
4-YEAR-OLDS
- California: 15

3-YEAR-OLDS
- California: 8

† 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.

* 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.
CALIFORNIA STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM (CA SPP)

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................ 140,920
School districts that offer state program .......... 97% (counties/parishes)
Income requirement .................................................. 70% SMI
Minimum hours of operation ......................... 3 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .................................................. Determined locally

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | CA SPP 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 | California Child Development Associate Teacher Permit | BA | ☐
Teacher specialized training | ECE, CD | Specializing in pre-K | ✔
Assistant teacher degree | HSD | CDA or equivalent | ☐
Staff professional development | 105 hours/5 years | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | ☐
Maximum class size | No limit (3- & 4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ☐
Staff-child ratio | 1:8 (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; data used for program improvement | 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 ........................................ $1,003,621,637
Local match required? ........................................ No
State spending per child enrolled ................................... $7,122
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................................. $7,426

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

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

3-YEAR-OLD 4-YEAR-OLD

12% 17%
7% 21%
3% 7%
78% 52%

CA SPP* CA TK* 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.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

CA SPP* $7,426
HDST** $12,992
K-12*** $16,096

Data are for the 2018-2019 school year, unless otherwise noted.
CALIFORNIA TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (TK)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................... 104,694
School districts that offer state program ........ 100% (counties/parishes)
Income requirement ........................................ No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .................. 3 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .................. School or academic year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>CA TK REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
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<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
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<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
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<td>Teacher degree</td>
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<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
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<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
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<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>Determined locally</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>33 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:33 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings (by 1st grade)</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; referral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ........................................... $1,023,405,836
Local match required? ........................................ No
State spending per child enrolled .................................. $9,775
All reported spending per child enrolled* .......................... $9,775

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- CA TK*: $9,775
- HDST**: $12,992
- K-12***: $16,096

* 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.

Data are for the 2018-2019 school year, unless otherwise noted.