OVERVIEW

WHAT’S NEW
At the end of 2019, Guam was awarded $1,000,000 under the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B–5) competition. Over the next year, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services will use this funding to implement goals and objectives to provide services to children from birth through age eight.

Additionally, on January 30, 2020, the Guam Education Board signed Resolution 2020 – 01 to be submitted to the Guam Legislature. The resolution includes additional funding in the amount of $720,435 for the Early Childhood Education Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Program to expand to five additional schools, which will accommodate 90 additional students beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.

BACKGROUND
The Guam Department of Education’s publicly funded Pilot Prekindergarten Program is available in all four regions of the territory’s single school district. Each region has one Prekindergarten Program classroom located within a public school. All age-eligible children may enroll in the program, which has no income limit for eligibility. Guam’s Prekindergarten Program operates six hours a day, five days a week, following the school year or academic calendar, and providing 978 hours of services per year. Both lunch and breakfast are served to children attending the program.

The program’s maximum class size is 18 children, with a teacher-to-student ratio of 1 to 9. Lead teachers are required to have an associate degree with early childhood education specialization and either pre-K or pre-K to 2nd grade certification. Lead teachers also are required to participate in 30 clock hours of in-service professional development annually. Assistant teachers are required to hold a high school diploma, but are not required to participate in any professional development.

A formal evaluation of the program was conducted by the Guam Department of Education’s Administrator for Research, Planning & Evaluation in 2018 and is currently under review by the Guam Education Board.
GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PILOT PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment......................................................... 72
School districts that offer state program..................................... 100%
Income requirement ................................................................. No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ..................................................... 6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................................. School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......................... 95
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 534
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .............. 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | GUAM PRE-K 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 | AA | BA | ❌
Teacher specialized training | ECE | Specializing in pre-K | ✔
Assistant teacher degree | HSD | CDA or equivalent | ❌
Staff professional development | 30 hours/year (teachers only); PD plans (teachers only); Coaching | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | ❌
Maximum class size | 18 (4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✔
Staff-child ratio | 1:9 (4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | ✔
Screening & referral | Immunizations, full physical exam, no vision or hearing | 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 ....................................................... $352,876
Local match required? .............................................................. No
State Head Start spending ....................................................... $0
State spending per child enrolled .............................................. $4,901
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......................... $4,901

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
--- | ---
5% | 2%
1% | 12%
94% | 85.5%

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

†† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

Pre-K* | $4,901
HDST** | $6,507
K-12*** | Data not available

State contributions | Federal contributions | Local contributions | TANF spending

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