OVERVIEW

WHAT'S NEW
The Maine Department of Education (DOE) was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2018 for over $1 million to conduct a needs assessment of programs and services for children birth to age five and their families to determine overlaps and gaps. After the completion of the needs assessment, Maine DOE, Department of Health and Human Services, and multiple stakeholders created a strategic plan to guide their work in early childhood systems at both the state and local level.

BACKGROUND
Maine established its Two-Year Kindergarten initiative in 1983 by allocating resources to local districts through the school funding formula. Since 2007, state-funded programs for 4-year-olds have been separately defined as the Public Preschool Program (PPP), still funded through Maine's school funding formula, with distribution of funds to 150 of the 196 school administrative units (SAUs) that operated kindergarten.

PPP classrooms function as either stand-alone programs located in public schools or SAUs partner with community-based child care programs or Head Start agencies. Schools are required to provide a local match to draw down a per-pupil state subsidy. The required local match is part of the school funding formula based on property wealth.

Maine's Public Preschool Program Standards, promulgated as a regulation in December 2014, outlined programmatic changes including reduced child-staff ratio and group size, the use of evidence-based curricula, and child screening and assessments.
MAINE PUBLIC PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................... 6,115
School districts that offer state program ......................... 77% (school administrative units)
Income requirement ........................................ No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ........................................ 2 hours/day
Operating schedule ............................................. School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .................... 2,014
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .... 2,276
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY                          ME 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 BA                                           BA
Teacher specialized training ECE                            Specializing in pre-K
Assistant teacher degree Educator Technician II            CDA or equivalent
Staff professional development 6 credit hours/5 years (teachers only); PD plans (teachers only) For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching
Maximum class size 16 (4-year-olds)                        20 or lower
Staff-child ratio 1:8 (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 ........................................... $22,220,882
Local match required? ................................................ Yes
State Head Start spending ........................................... $3,124,038
State spending per child enrolled ................................ $3,634
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................... $8,414

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

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLD</th>
<th>4-YEAR-OLD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head Start†</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Ed††</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/None</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled 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.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State contributions</th>
<th>Federal contributions</th>
<th>Local contributions</th>
<th>TANF spending</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRE-K</td>
<td>$8,414</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td>$12,538</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-12***</td>
<td>$18,077</td>
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