Missouri

OVERVIEW

WHAT’S NEW
Funding for the Missouri Preschool Program (MPP) was reduced in FY 2019, resulting in a reduction in programs’ operating schedules as well as no new contracts were offered to operate new MPP classrooms. Missouri began operating a new state-funded pre-K program, Missouri Pre-K Foundation Formula.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2019 for $6,500,000. This funding will be used to fund the Stronger Together Missouri project, which aims to implement a comprehensive, statewide, birth-to-kindergarten-entry needs assessment and to update the state’s Early Childhood Strategic Plan to enhance long-term sustainability in early childhood services.

BACKGROUND
MPP, launched in 1998, serves 3- and 4-year-olds in public schools, private child-care centers, and nonprofit agencies. Roughly 90% of children are served in programs operated by public schools. Programs are required to work with the local Parents as Teachers program to provide parent education, family visits, group connections, health and development screenings, and services referrals.

MPP is funded through the state’s Tobacco Settlement Fund. In the 2018-2019 school year, MPP was offered in nine percent of school districts statewide. A competitive grant process determines which programs receive MPP funds, with priority given to those serving children with special needs or from low-income families. MPP contracts are for a maximum of five years. Programs require payment on a sliding scale based on criteria including eligibility for free or reduced-priced school lunch.

Program quality is monitored through site visits and classroom assessments using ECERS-3 to support goal setting and professional development. On-site consultation hours are also provided, ranging from 14 to 20 annually, based on program needs. Children enrolled in MPP are assessed using the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP).

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, Missouri’s Local Education Agencies (LEAs) were encouraged to use the Missouri Pre-K Foundation Formula fund for preschool. Most policy decisions are made by the LEAs but must meet requirements around teacher to child ratio, teaching degrees and certification, and fiscal spending and reporting. DESE offers professional development opportunities for classroom teachers, including coaching.

Missouri’s overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for both MPP and the Missouri Pre-K Foundation Formula program, is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on MPP and the fourth page provides information on the Missouri Pre-K Foundation Formula program.
MISSOURI STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ............................................. 5,788
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..................... 10,598
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ...... 10,896
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 0

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ............................................. $19,274,567
State Head Start spending .................................................. $0
State spending per child enrolled .................................... $3,330
All reported spending per child enrolled* ..................... $3,330

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

3-YEAR-OLD

- 1.5%
- 8%
- 4%
- 86.5%

4-YEAR-OLD

- 6%
- 7%
- 7%
- 80%

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

Pre-K* $3,330
HDST** $11,269
K-12*** $13,257

RESOURCES RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING

37

ALL REPORTED SPENDING

41

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

5.9

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS

39 26

RESOURCE RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING

PRE-K

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.

* 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.
MISSOURI PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................ 1,330
School districts that offer state program .............................. 9%
Income requirement ........................................... No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ....................................... 3 hours/day
Operating schedule ............................... School/academic year or calendar year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>MO PP 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>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</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, AA in Child Care/Education, or 60 college hours (min. of 3 college hours in ECE)</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>22 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>20 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement</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 ................................. $5,266,964
Local match required? ....................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ............................ $3,960
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................. $3,960

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Spending per Child Enrolled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MO PP</td>
<td>$3,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td>$11,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12***</td>
<td>$13,257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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** 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.

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.
MISSOURI PRE-K FOUNDATION FORMULA

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ............................................................. 4,458
School districts that offer state program....13%; 21% charter schools
Income requirement ................................................................. 185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation.............................. Determined locally
Operating schedule................................. School or academic year

TOTAL STATE PRE-K SPENDING

POLICY MO FF REQUIREMENT 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, ECE SpEd Specializing in pre-K
Assistant teacher degree CDA, AA in Child Care/Education, or 60 college hours (min. of 3 college hours in ECE) CDA or equivalent
Staff professional development 30 hours/year (years 1-4, teachers only); PD plans and Coaching (some teachers only) 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 1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds) 1:10 or better
Screening & referral None Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral
Continuous quality improvement system None Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ....................................................... $14,007,603
Local match required? ................................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled ............................................ $3,142
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................................. $3,142

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

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

1 Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
2 Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
3 K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

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