**OVERVIEW**


**WHAT’S NEW**

North Dakota’s legislature provided $3 million in Early Childhood Education Program Grants beginning in the 2017-2018 school year through a biennial appropriation to the state Department of Commerce. In 2018, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) was awarded $2,275,771 under the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five. With this funding, NDDPI has developed online professional development courses covering multiple domains of the State’s Early Learning Standards, developed a foundation to support an Early Childhood Integrated Data System, and completed a comprehensive Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan to guide the State’s efforts.

**BACKGROUND**

2018-2019 was the third year of North Dakota’s Early Childhood Education Program. The program provides services in 49 districts for at least 400 hours over 32 weeks per year. All program providers are also required to incorporate at least 10 hours of research-based parent involvement activities. 4-year-old children who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch are eligible for the program.

NDDPI has other early childhood education initiatives as well, including grant opportunities for educators and school districts. Early Childhood Continuing Education Grants of up to $3,000 every two years enable lead and assistant teachers in pre-kindergarten, Head Start, and child care to enhance their credentials at North Dakota state colleges and universities.

The North Dakota Early Learning Standards Birth–Kindergarten, revised in 2018, are voluntary and cover multiple domains including social-emotional development, language development, physical well-being and motor development, approaches toward learning, and cognitive and general knowledge. The standards were aligned with the state’s kindergarten standards and the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework. The state sponsors professional development aligned with these standards for early childhood professionals.
NORTH DAKOTA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment................................................. 1,062
School districts that offer state program..........................28%
Income requirement .................................................. 185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation............................... Determined locally
Operating schedule ........................................... School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..............1,403
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ....2,302
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4......... 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>ND PRE-K 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE, EE with K (public); CD, EE with K (nonpublic)</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD (public); None (nonpublic)</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>PD hours vary by license; PD plans (public teachers only)</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>No limit (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>No limit (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>None</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 ........................................ $564,009
Local match required? ........................................ No
State Head Start spending .................................... $0
State spending per child enrolled .................. $531
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......... $531

* 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

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