OVERVIEW

WHAT’S NEW
In 2018-2019, all PAPKC grantees were required to rebid through a competitive process. Due to an increase in state funding, 235 new contracts were awarded for PKC. In addition, PAHSSAP also experienced an expansion. As a result, 7,192 children were served in PAHSSAP in 2018-2019, an increase of 1,541 children from the previous year.

BACKGROUND
The Pennsylvania Department of Education oversees and conducts fiscal monitoring for four pre-kindergarten programs.

The Ready to Learn (RTL) Block Grant (formerly known as the Education Accountability Block Grant Program) is the smallest program of Pennsylvania’s four pre-K programs. Launched in 2004, this program is funded through the school aid formula with 75% of funds targeted to children who have not achieved proficiency on the PA System for School Assessment test. School districts can opt to offer this program or choose from a list of other services.

The Pennsylvania Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (PAHSSAP), launched in 2004, is the second largest program, and provides extended-day services for children attending federally funded Head Start programs, as well as additional Head Start slots. Programs must meet federal Head Start Performance Standards and programs in child care centers must participate in the Pennsylvania Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). PAHSSAP programs are required to use CLASS, ECERS, or another locally selected tool to annually conduct structured observations of classroom quality. The program is monitored and administered by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), which is accountable to the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Human Services.

The Pennsylvania Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (K4) and School-based Prekindergarten programs (SBPK), the longest-running of the state’s pre-K programs, are financed through the state’s general fund. K4 launched in the 1990s as "kindergarten for 4-year-olds" and funding now is available to any districts wishing to offer the programs, but enrollment is low. Policy decisions are decentralized to the local school district level.

The Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Program (PAPKC) enrolls the most children of the four state pre-K programs and is available in most school districts statewide. In 2018-2019, PAPKC operated in 95% of the state’s 500 school districts. The program, launched in 2007 specifically to expand access to high-quality pre-K, can enroll children up to two years before they are eligible for kindergarten. Children living in households with incomes up to 300% FPL are eligible for PAPKC, although school districts may set lower income thresholds. A variety of programs—Head Start, child care, private schools and public school districts—are eligible to apply for funding awarded through competitive grants every five years. Site monitoring is conducted annually by program specialists and PAPKC programs are required to have an ECERS assessment annually, which may include self-assessments.

Pennsylvania’s overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for all four programs, is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on RTL, the fourth page provides information on PAHSSAP, the fifth on K4/SBPK, and the sixth on PAPKC.
PENNSYLVANIA STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................... 44,756
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......................... 23,952
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......... 23,775
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .............. 6,545

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ............................................. $293,749,908
State Head Start spending ............................................. $59,177,799
State spending per child enrolled .................................... $6,563
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......................... $6,563

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS
30 9

RESOURCE RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING
16 25

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
6.6

Data are for the 2018-2019 school year, unless otherwise noted.
PENNSYLVANIA READY TO LEARN BLOCK GRANT

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................. 3,533
School districts that offer state program .................................... 3%
Income requirement .............................................................. No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .................................................. 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .............................................................. School or academic year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>PA RTL 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>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA (public); AA (nonpublic)</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>PK–4, B–3</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>Meets NCLB requirements</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>180 hours/5 years (teachers only); PD plans (new public teachers); Coaching (new public teachers)</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Determined locally</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Observation required for Instructional I certified teachers only; 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 .............................................. $7,221,048
Local match required? ........................................................ No
State spending per child enrolled ................................. $2,044
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................. $2,044

* 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.
**ACCESS**

Total state pre-K enrollment ............................................. 7,192
School districts that offer state program .................................. 26%
Income requirement ............................................................. 100% FPL
Minimum hours of operation .................................................. 3.5 hours/day
Operating schedule .............................................................. Determined locally

**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

**POLICY** | **PA HSSAP REQUIREMENT** | **BENCHMARK** | **REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?**
--- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | ✔
Curriculum supports | Approval process | Approval process & supports | ✗
Teacher degree | AA | BA | ✗
Teacher specialized training | ECE | Specializing in pre-K | ✔
Assistant teacher degree | CDA | CDA or equivalent | ✔
Staff professional development | 15 hours/year | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | ✗
Maximum class size | 20 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✔
Staff-child ratio | 1:10 (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 at the local level only | 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 ................................................... $59,177,799
Local match required? ............................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled ........................................... $8,228
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $8,228

* 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**

- **PA HSSAP**: $8,228
- **HDST**: $10,610
- **K-12**: $20,737

Data are for the 2018-2019 school year, unless otherwise noted.
PENNSYLVANIA KINDERGARTEN FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS AND SCHOOL-BASED PRE-K

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................. 8,891
School districts that offer state program .............................. 19%
Income requirement ................................................................. No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ............................................... 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................................. School or academic year

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>PA K4 &amp; SBPK 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>Approval process &amp; supports</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>PK–4, K–6, (public); PK–4, B–3 (nonpublic)</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>None (K4); Meets NCLB requirements (SBPK)</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>180 hours/5 years (SBPK public teachers only); PD plans (new public teachers); Coaching (new teachers)</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>SBPK: 20 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds); K4: No limit</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>SBPK: 1:10 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds); K4: No limit</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Observation required for Instructional I certified teachers only; 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 ........................................... $34,537,702
Local match required? .................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled ............................... $3,885
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................... $3,885

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

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- PA K4/SBPK*: $3,885
- HDST**: $10,610
- K-12***: $20,737

* 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.
PENNSYLVANIA PRE-K COUNTS

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................. 25,140
School districts that offer state program ................................. 95%
Income requirement ................................................................. 300% FPL
Minimum hours of operation .............................................. 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ........................................................... School or academic year

Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................. 25,140
School districts that offer state program ................................. 95%
Income requirement ................................................................. 300% FPL
Minimum hours of operation .............................................. 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ........................................................... School or academic year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | PA PKC 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 | PK–4, B–3 | Specializing in pre-K | ✓
Assistant teacher degree | Meets NCLB requirements | CDA or equivalent | ❌
Staff professional development  | 180 hours/5 years (teachers only); PD plans (some teachers and assistant teachers per QRIS); Coaching (new teachers) | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | ❌
Maximum class size | 20 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✓
Staff-child ratio | 1:10 (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 ................................................. $192,813,359
Local match required? ............................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled ........................................... $7,670
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $7,670

* 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.