OVERVIEW

WHAT'S NEW
In 2019, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award for $9.9 million to support development, planning, and coordination of the state’s B–5 early learning system.

BACKGROUND
Since becoming a state in 1848, Wisconsin’s Constitution has included a promise to provide free, voluntary education for 4-year-olds. School districts are not required to offer the Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program (4K), but if they do, it must be open to all age eligible children. During the 2018-2019 school year, 405 of 411 school districts offered the program (99%).

Funding for 4K is part of the overall school funding formula, funded at 50% of the funding for other grade levels. Districts receive 60% of full-day funding if they offer an additional 87.5 hours of parent outreach. Funds for 4K are distributed to public schools, which may subcontract and collaborate with private child-care centers, community-based programs, faith-based centers, family child care providers, or Head Start agencies. The state funds a total of 437 hours per year and operating schedules are locally determined. Most programs operate part-day, four or five days per week; while some operate full-day, two or three days per week.

The Wisconsin Head Start State Supplement program is a separate program offering supplemental state funding to federal Head Start grantees to provide comprehensive early childhood education for Early Head Start and Head Start eligible children and families. Participating programs follow the federal Head Start Performance Standards. Ongoing collaborative efforts bring together Head Start technical assistance and training with other professional development efforts at both the state and local levels.

Wisconsin’s overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for both the 4K program and Head Start State Supplement, is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on the 4K program and the fourth page provides information on the Wisconsin Head Start State Supplement.
WISCONSIN STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................... 51,618
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ....................... 8,930
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......... 11,015
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............... 615

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ........................................... $175,620,801
State Head Start spending ............................................ $6,264,100
State spending per child enrolled .................................... $3,402
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......................... $6,110

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE
3-YEAR-OLD
1% Pre-K
10% Head Start†
3% Special Ed††
86% Other/None

4-YEAR-OLD
72% Pre-K
7% Head Start†
21% Special Ed††

* Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K (4K).
†† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Pre-K*</th>
<th>HDST**</th>
<th>K-12***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1000s</td>
<td>$6,110</td>
<td>$10,332</td>
<td>$13,611</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>State contributions</th>
<th>Federal contributions</th>
<th>Local contributions</th>
<th>TANF spending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12***</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.

ACCESS RANKINGS
4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS
5 29

RESOURCE RANKINGS
STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING
35 29

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
3

Data are for the 2018-2019 school year, unless otherwise noted.
WISCONSIN FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN (4K)

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment............................................. 51,003
School districts that offer state program..................................99%
Income requirement ......................................................... No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation.............................................. 2.5 hours/day
Operating schedule......................................................... Determined locally

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>WI 4K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned with other state standards, 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>ECE</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>PD plans (public teachers); Coaching (some nonpublic)</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>Determined locally (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>Determined locally (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Immunizations, medical examinations; Referrals determined locally</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Determined locally</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 ............................................. $169,356,701
Local match required? ................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled................................. $3,321
All reported spending per child enrolled* ...................... $6,061

* 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.

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

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

Data are for the 2018-2019 school year, unless otherwise noted.
ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ............................................. 615
School districts that offer state program ......................... 98% (Federal HdSt grantees)
Income requirement ........................................ Per Federal HdSt requirements
Minimum hours of operation ....................................... 3.5 hours/day
Operating schedule ........................................ Determined locally

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported,</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>AA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE, Per Federal HdSt requirements</td>
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<td>CDA</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
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<td>15 hours/year</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>17 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>2:17 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (4-year-olds)</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>Per Federal Head Start Standards; Data used for program improvement at local level only</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 ............................................. $6,264,100
Local match required? .................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled .................................. $10,186
All reported spending per child enrolled* ...................... $10,186

* 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 FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.