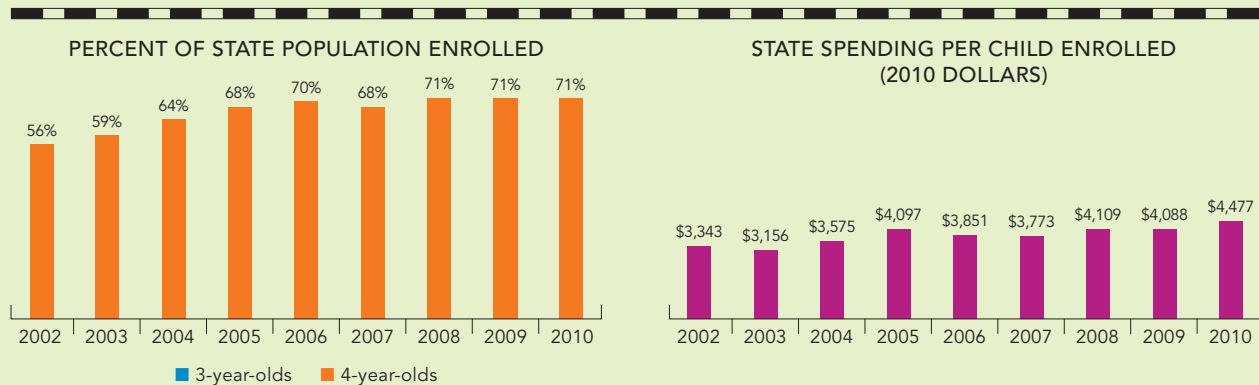


Oklahoma



Oklahoma established the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program as a pilot preschool education program in 1980 with the goal of eventually serving all 4-year-olds in the state. The program received statewide funding in 1990, though it was limited to 4-year-olds eligible for the federal Head Start program. Districts could, however, choose to provide the program to additional 4-year-olds through local funds or tuition. In 1998, Oklahoma began offering free, voluntary access to preschool programs for all 4-year-olds, becoming the second state in the nation to do so.

Enrollment in the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program has steadily increased over the years, and the program is currently offered in 98 percent of school districts. Since the 2003-2004 program year, Oklahoma has ranked first in the nation for serving the highest percentage of 4-year-olds in its state-funded preschool program.

The state does not provide specific funds for 3-year-olds, though some Oklahoma school districts have taken the initiative to offer classroom programs for these younger students. Using funding sources such as Title I, special education, Head Start, and general funds, 2,325 3-year-olds were served in pre-K classrooms during the 2009-2010 school year.

Funding for the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program is provided directly to public school districts through the state's school finance formula. Districts are reimbursed at the per-pupil rate with specific funding amounts or weights determined by the length of the program day and the age of the child. Districts may subcontract with other classroom providers by placing public school teachers into child care centers, community-based programs, and Head Start programs. Children served in these collaboration programs are still considered public school enrollees and receive the same services as children in public school settings. During the 2009-2010 program year, more than 5,500 students were served through collaboration programs. The Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program has been evaluated for program impact/child outcomes through multi-year studies since 2004.

In addition, Oklahoma launched the Pilot Early Childhood Program in the 2006-2007 school year. The rules and regulations for this program were established by the Oklahoma State Board of Education, though funding comes from both public and private dollars. The program is available year-round to at-risk children from birth through age 3. Enrollment is expanded each year, and the program served 611 3-year-olds in the 2009-2010 school year. The Early Childhood Expansion Project also serves children from birth through age 3 and, beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, public and private funds will be used to create 22 new classrooms with slots for approximately 300 children.

Oklahoma also supplements the federal Head Start program with funds for extended-day and additional services. The state provided \$2,452,533 in state funds to the program in fiscal year 2010.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
1	None Served

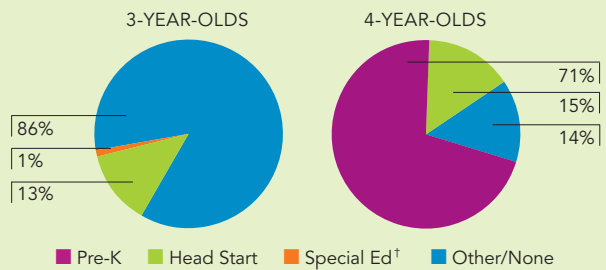
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
16	9

OKLAHOMA EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUR-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	37,356
School districts that offer state program	98%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	2.5 hours/day (half-day) and/or 6 hours/day (full-day); 5 days/week ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	3,921
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	15,179
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0 ²

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET 9 </div>
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher degree	BA/BS	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher specialized training	EC certification for birth-3	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Assistant teacher degree	Must meet NCLB requirements ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher in-service	75 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds	NA			
4-year-olds	20			
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds	NA			
4-year-olds	1:10			
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health; and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Meals	At least 1 meal ⁵	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$167,245,396 ⁶
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$2,452,533 ²
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,477
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,855

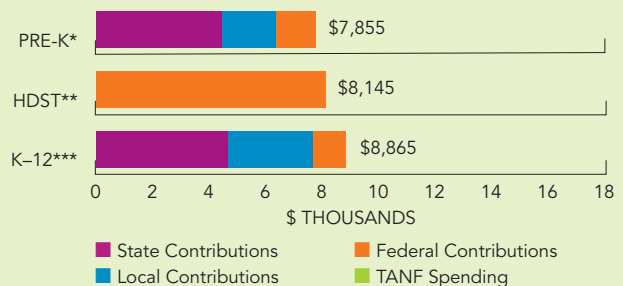
* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '09-'10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Providers may choose from three program options: a half-day program with 2.5 instructional hours daily, a full-day program with 6 instructional hours daily, or a combination of both options. Districts can choose to offer a longer day, but will not receive additional state funds through the state aid formula. All programs operate 5 days per week.

² State Head Start funds are used to provide extended-day and additional services.

³ Assistant teachers must meet federal requirements to be highly qualified under NCLB. They must have an AA, or 48 credit hours of college coursework, or pass one of two state-approved tests that do not have specific educational requirements. One test is the Oklahoma General Education Test (an exam required for pre-K-12 public school teachers) and the other is a national test for para-professional status.

⁴ Support services include two parent conferences or home visits annually, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. Programs must also offer or make referrals for other services including mental health services (counselors), health services (school nurse), and all other typical public school program services (such as early intervention, transition programs, or literacy coaches).

⁵ At least one meal is provided through the Federal Child Nutrition Program. This federal program does not provide snacks for students, so snacks are determined locally.

⁶ This is an estimate of total state spending as the state did not report actual spending.