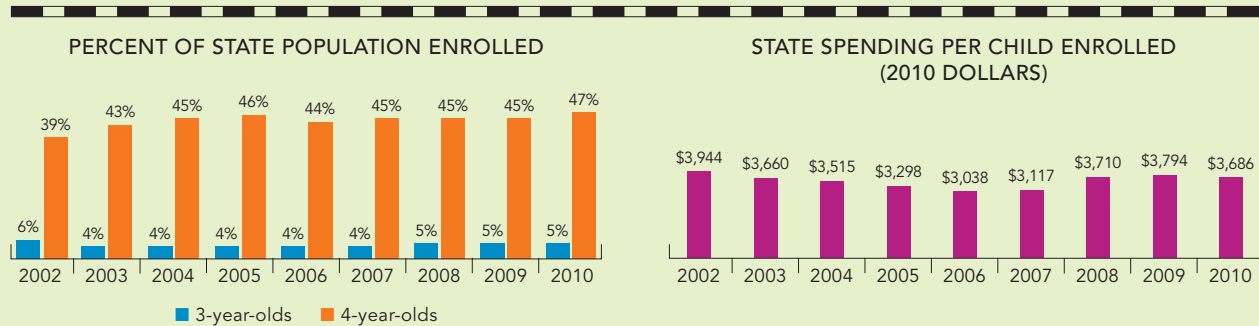


# Texas



In 1985, the Texas Public School Prekindergarten initiative was launched to provide half-day preschool education services to at-risk 4-year-olds. School districts are required to offer the initiative if they serve 15 or more eligible 4-year-olds. Children are eligible if they meet one of a number of risk factors: free or reduced-price lunch eligibility, homelessness or unstable housing, limited English proficiency, participation in foster care, or parent on active military duty or who has been injured or killed on duty. If parents pay tuition, non-eligible children may enroll at a district's discretion. Additional state and district funds may be used to offer the program to 3-year-olds.

Texas Public School Prekindergarten is supported by state and local funds and is part of the K-12 system through the Foundation School Program. While funding is distributed directly to school districts, districts are encouraged to partner with Head Start and licensed child care centers to provide preschool services. The Foundation School Program offers funding to support half-day services through programs that can apply for full-day funding through the competitive Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program. These grants usually prioritize school districts with low third grade reading scores.

In the 2007-2008 school year, the Texas Education Code amended its reporting requirements to work with the Texas School Readiness Certification System (SRCS). This quality rating system is meant to improve the school readiness of pre-K students across settings, including Head Start agencies, public preschool programs, and licensed child care centers, both for-profit and nonprofit. In the 2009-2010 school year, the SRCS was used in 1,642 preschool classrooms across the state, reaching 29,335 students. Additionally, online training on the Texas Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines is now available.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) used ARRA funding to provide a comprehensive needs assessment in spring/summer 2010, which helped in the development of a toolkit for districts to assist families in enrolling their eligible children in prekindergarten programs. A resource was also developed to help districts notify eligible families about free local prekindergarten programs. Expanded outreach efforts will continue through collaboration with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

As of September 2009, the restructured Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program became the Prekindergarten Early Start (PKES) Grant. This grant provides funds to eligible school districts and charter schools to prepare preschoolers to enter kindergarten at or above grade level. Grantees must implement high-quality, developmentally appropriate curricula as well as engage in continuous monitoring of student programs in the classroom and professional development. Programs must also participate in the School Readiness Certification System and develop a School Readiness Integration Plan. The Integration Plan is a collaboration among multiple parties, including prekindergarten and early education providers as well as local workforce development boards, to integrate cooperative strategies to share resources across delivery settings.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
7	11

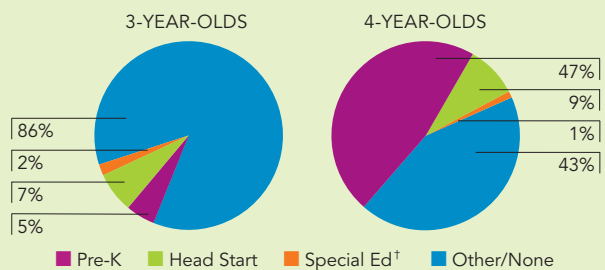
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
25	30

# TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	214,694
School districts that offer state program .....	82%
Income requirement .....	185% FPL <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation .....	3 hours/day, 5 days/week <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment .....	23,082
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	67,632
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	0

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



<sup>†</sup> 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?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	Generalist (EC-Grade 6) Teaching Certificate <sup>3</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree.....	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	150 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	No limit <sup>4</sup>		
4-year-olds .....	No limit <sup>4</sup>		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	No limit		
4-year-olds .....	No limit		
Screening/referral.....	Health <sup>5</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
and support services			
Meals .....	Depend on length of program day <sup>6</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	None	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

4

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$791,378,304 <sup>7</sup>
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$3,686
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$3,686

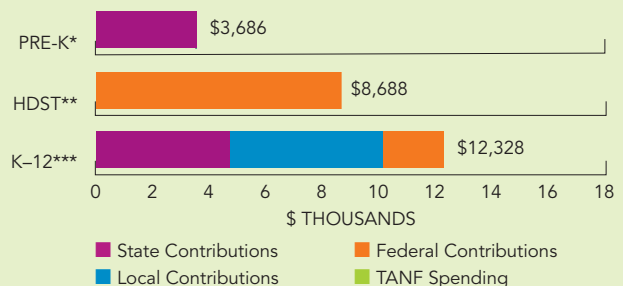
\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

\*\* 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



<sup>1</sup> During the 2009-2010 program year, 74 percent of children enrolled qualified based on income. Children may also qualify if they are homeless or have unstable housing, have a history of foster care, are eligible for TANF or other public assistance, have a parent on active military duty or who was injured or killed on active duty, or have non-English speaking family members.

<sup>2</sup> School districts that receive Prekindergarten Expansion Grant funding are required to offer 6 hours of services per day. Foundation funding covers half-day services only.

<sup>3</sup> The Generalist Teaching Certificate was extended to sixth grade in May 2009. The Generalist EC-4 credential will not be administered after August 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Prekindergarten classes no larger than 15 (for 3-year-olds) or 18 (for 4-year-olds) are preferred but not required.

<sup>5</sup> Some support services are required, but specific services are determined locally. The number of annual parent conferences or home visits is also determined locally.

<sup>6</sup> School districts are not required to serve meals to prekindergarten students. However, most school districts do serve either breakfast or lunch, and some offer both meals. All districts offering full-day programs provide lunch.

<sup>7</sup> This figure no longer includes TANF maintenance of effort (MOE) funds.