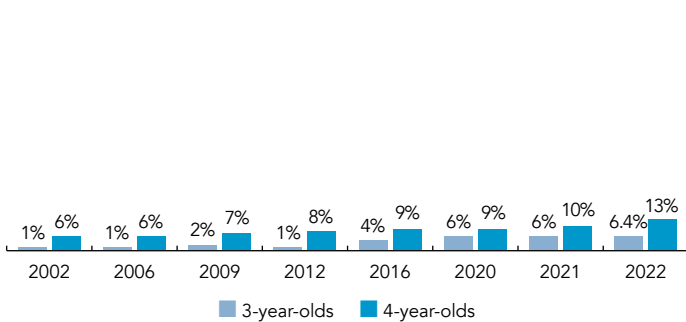
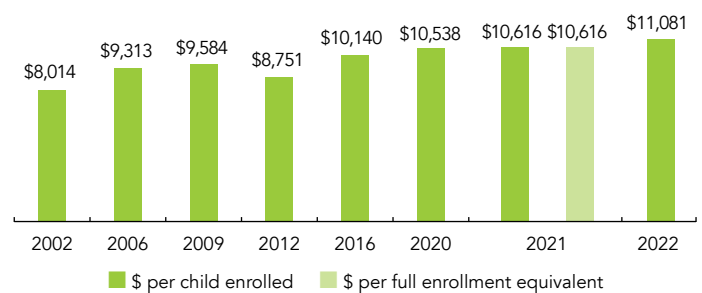


Washington

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2022 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

During the 2021-2022 school year Washington’s Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) enrolled 15,007 children in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), an increase of 358 children from the prior year. State spending for ECEAP totaled \$141,490,680 with an additional \$20,847,000 in federal recovery funding to support the program, up \$9,054,161 (6%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child on ECEAP equaled \$10,817 (including recovery dollars) in 2021-2022, up \$354 from 2020-2021, adjusted for inflation. Washington ECEAP met 9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

Washington’s Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also served 3,127 children in a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program during the 2021-2022 school year, up 2,227 children from the prior year. State spending for TK was \$38,599,688, an increase of \$27,268,641 (269%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child on TK was \$12,344, down \$884 from 2020-2021, adjusted for inflation. TK met 6 out of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT’S NEW

ECEAP added 358 more slots during the 2021-2022 school year and another 700 in 2022-2023 when a 1.6% slot rate increase also took effect. In 2021-2022, the state’s Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) legislation funded 34 Early ECEAP slots, in addition to the 144 slots funded through the Preschool Development Grant (PDG). Income eligibility was expanded and moved to State Median Income (SMI) instead of FPL. Income eligibility categories will increase again in 2030-2031. Additionally, [FSKA](#) continued and expanded Complex Needs funding that supports contractors in providing inclusive environments to all children in ECEAP and Early ECEAP settings. Licensed ECEAP contractors were also eligible for stabilization grants, of which 159 were awarded to licensed ECEAP providers, totaling \$14,649,000.

ECEAP also released new Performance Standards that included increased equity, inclusive, and anti-bias requirements. Washington received funding from a private donor for summer programming in 2021 that provided services to 1,806 children transitioning out of ECEAP to kindergarten across 31 ECEAP contractors. The state QRIS implemented a revised quality recognition and improvement system based on provider feedback that moves to a virtual data collection model that allows reviewers the opportunity to see every teaching environment and engage in coaching with teachers.

DCYF and OSPI are supporting TK programs with TA on collaborating with community-based partners (including ECEAP), Head Start, child care, family child care, and licensed tribally-led early learning programs.

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Washington Department of Early Learning merged into the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), which oversees early learning programs along with child welfare and juvenile rehabilitation. One of the five [strategic priorities](#) for DCYF is to create a high-quality integrated birth to eight system. This includes expanding access to infant/toddler supports, expanding access to affordable, high-quality care, creating a responsive and inclusive integrated pre-k system, and expanding supports to the early learning workforce. The state ECEAP, created in 1985, is a large part of the state’s strategy to accomplish this goal. In recent years, both funding and enrollment for ECEAP have been growing. ECEAP funding comes from the state general fund, the Education Legacy Trust Account funded by estate taxes, and the “opportunity pathways account” financed by lottery proceeds. In 2010, the state Legislature established the ECEAP as a statutory entitlement for all eligible children, not funded by Head Start, by the 2018-2019 school year — a deadline extended to 2026-2027. ECEAP focuses on the whole child and provides comprehensive nutrition, health, education and family support services to Washington’s most at-risk young children. To be eligible for ECEAP currently, children must be 3- or 4-years-old and live in households with an income at or below 36% of the SMI for non-tribal children or 100% SMI for tribal children, eligible for special education services, experiencing homelessness, or previously participated in an approved birth to three early learning programs. Up to 10% of ECEAP enrollment may include children whose families do not meet the poverty requirement but experience other risk factors that could jeopardize learning, development, or school success.

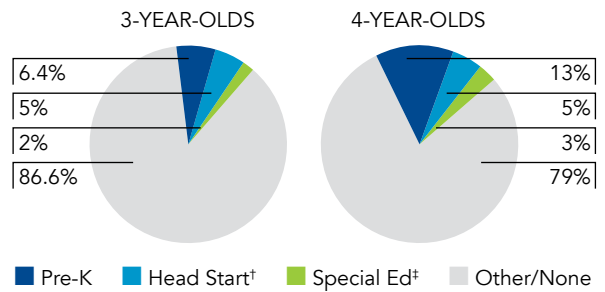
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WASHINGTON STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	18,134
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	8,299
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,821
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

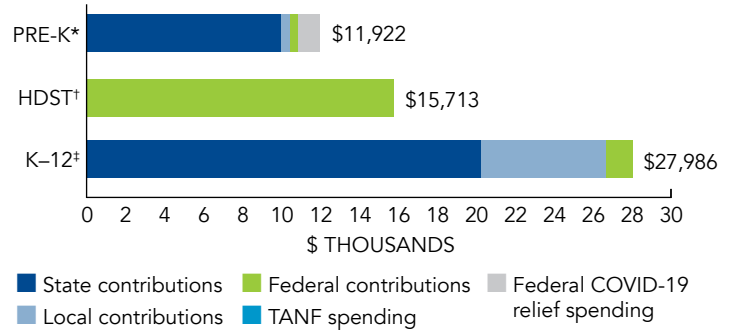


† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
‡ Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$200,937,368
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$11,081
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$11,922

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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
33	17

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
8	7

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
ECEAP	TK
9	6

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is the primary agency charged with overseeing public K–12 education in Washington state. Working with the state’s 295 public school districts and six state-tribal education compact schools, OSPI allocates funding and provides tools, resources, and technical assistance so every student in Washington is provided a high-quality public education. The goal of Washington’s K–12 education system is to prepare every student for postsecondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement.

OSPI’s Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a kindergarten program for children aged 5 who have missed the cutoff for kindergarten or are turning 5 before the following school year and do not have access to high-quality early learning experiences prior to kindergarten. Districts may offer TK programs, but they are not required to do so. The requirements for TK are the same as those for regular kindergarten established by RCW 28A.150.315. While school districts in Washington have always had the ability to enroll children into kindergarten early, TK has gained momentum in recent years, as a strategy for closing opportunity gaps.

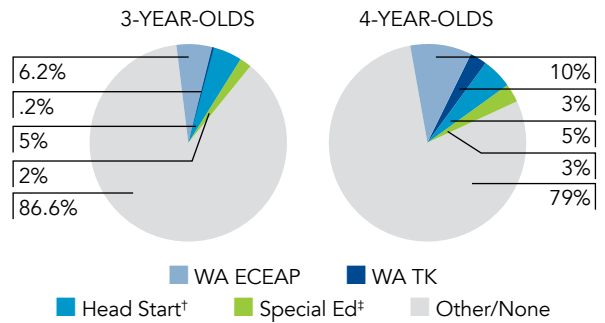
Washington’s overall support for state-funded preschool is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses on ECEAP and the fourth page on TK.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECEAP)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment 15,007
 School districts that offer state program 92% (counties)
 Income requirement 36% SMI (non-tribal children);
 100% SMI (tribal children)
 Minimum hours of operation 3 hours/day
 Operating schedule School year (part- & school day);
 Calendar year (working-day)

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
 ‡ Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	WA ECEAP REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	AA	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	20 hours/year (teachers); 15 hours/year (assistants); PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

* Indicates that while policy meets the benchmark, it is not being implemented fully.

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RESOURCES

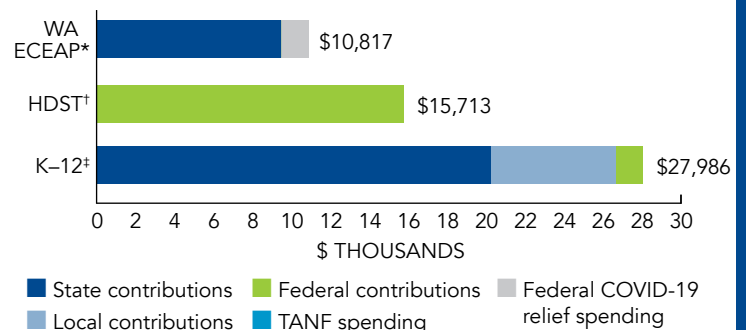
Total state pre-K spending \$162,337,680
 Local match required? No
 State spending per child enrolled \$10,817
 All reported spending per child enrolled* \$10,817

* 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

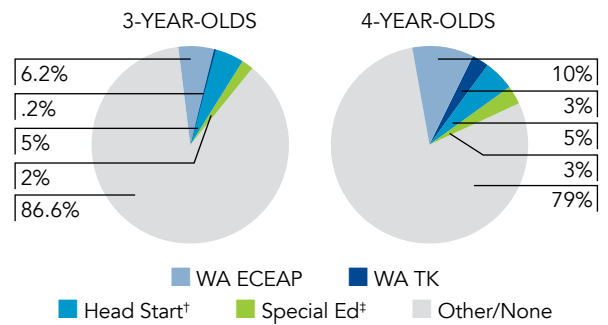


TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (TK)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	3,127
School districts that offer state program.....	32% (counties)
Income requirement.....	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation.....	27.75 hours/week; 5 days/week
Operating schedule.....	School or academic year

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
‡ Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	WA TK REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, Elem. Ed., ECE SpEd, SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	100 hours/5 years (teachers); 3 days/year (assistants); PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

* Indicates that while policy meets the benchmark, it is not being implemented fully.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$38,599,688
Local match required?.....	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$12,344
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$17,223

* 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

