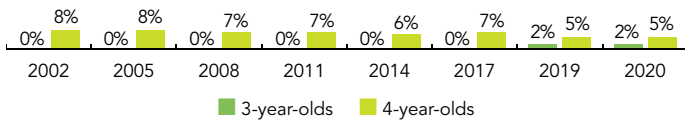
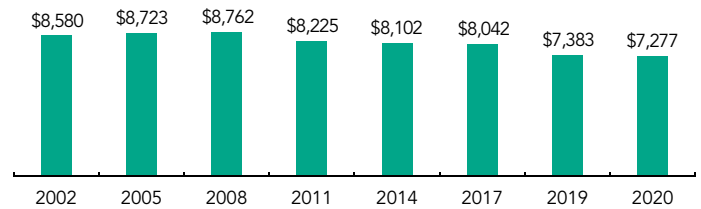


Delaware

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2020 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

Delaware preschool enrolled 845 children in 2019-2020, the same as in the prior year. State funding totaled \$6,149,300, down \$89,536 (1%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$7,277 in 2019-2020, down \$106 from 2018-2019, adjusted for inflation. Delaware met 9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Delaware instituted Executive Order 38 that only allowed in-person child care options for essential workers. As a result, community-based ECAPs could choose to remain open as Emergency Child Care Sites. School district ECAPs as well as the state's Head Start ECAP partners were subject to local education agency decisions on closure. ECAPs that closed for in-person instruction still administered remote instruction and services to all enrolled children and families. Thus, enrollment was not impacted, but how services were provided (i.e. remote, hybrid instruction) did change for many ECAPs. CARES Act funding was leveraged to create an Enhanced Reimbursement tiered payment system for programs with vacant capacity due to the pandemic's modified ratio requirements. Purchase of Care (state subsidy) was paid by enrollment, not attendance through the end of the ECAP year. Grants for programs that provided school-age care with schools closed were also allocated. ECAPs could be eligible for these new funding streams based on program type.

BACKGROUND

The Delaware Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) began in 1994, providing comprehensive early learning services for 4-year-olds eligible for the federal Head Start program. Eligibility expanded to 3-year-olds in 2017-2018.

Modeled after the federal Head Start program, ECAP requires participating programs to follow required federal Head Start Program Performance Standards. Per these standards, ten percent of enrollment slots are reserved for children with disabilities; the majority of participating children must live in families with incomes at or below 100% FPL. Since the reauthorization of the federal Head Start program in 2007, up to 35% of enrolled children may live in households up to 130% of FPL.

ECAP awards are available to private and public child care programs, such as for-profit child care, Head Start agencies, public schools, community-based organizations, and faith-based centers through a Request for Proposal process. Contracts for funded ECAP seats are determined based on Community Needs Assessment Data.

Delaware is providing professional development and technical assistance to help programs meet ECAP and Delaware Stars standards. For example, each ECAP program is awarded a Training/Technical Assistance award to utilize towards individualized program professional development. In addition, every ECAP program is allotted funds for covering onsite training(s) provided by the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC).

In 2012, Delaware began requiring all ECAP programs to participate in Delaware Stars, the state quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for early childhood programs, which is aligned with the Head Start Program Performance Standards. All ECAP programs are required to maintain at least a Star 4 out of 5 rating.

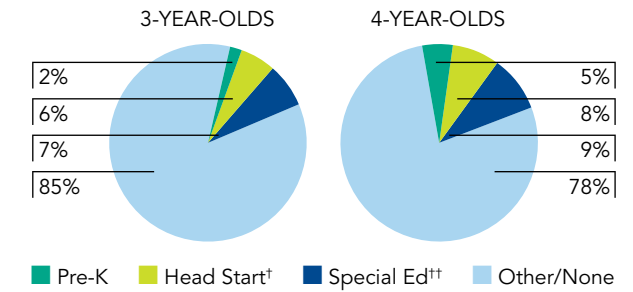
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
42	24	10	21	9

DELAWARE EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECAP)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	845
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	100% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	3.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Minimum 160 days/year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	1,999
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	1,333
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	181

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	DE PRE-K 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 (public); At least AA with 50% BA (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Working towards CDA or equivalent	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	90 hours/5 years (public teachers); 18 hours/year (nonpublic teachers & assistants); 15 hours/year (public assistants); PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	17 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	2:17 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (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.

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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$6,149,300
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	Not reported
State spending per child enrolled	\$7,277
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,277

* 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

