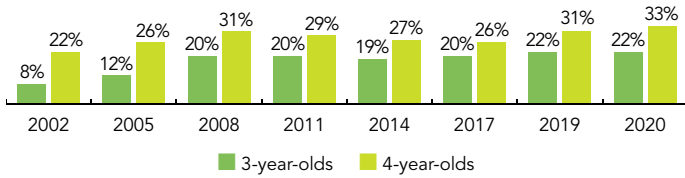
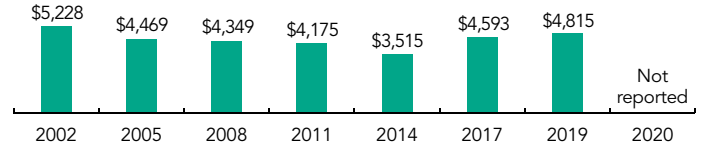


Illinois

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2020 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

Illinois preschool enrolled 85,183 children in 2019-2020, an increase of 4,022 children from the prior year. Illinois state funding was not reported for the 2019-2020 school year. Illinois met 8 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

Illinois was one of 23 states that was awarded a three-year PDG B-5 renewal grant for \$13,414,500 designed to implement the strategic plan developed with the 2018 PDG B-5 planning grant.

Although Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) programs were required by Executive Order to close in the Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some programs voluntarily applied under emergency child care rules to stay open to provide services for essential workers and families during the stay at home order. All programs were permitted to reopen for in-person instruction as of June 2020, with proper precautions in place, however programs could make the local determination to start the school year in person, remote or in a hybrid model.

BACKGROUND

The Illinois Prekindergarten Program for At-Risk Children was founded in 1985. The Illinois Preschool for All (PFA) initiative began in 2006 with the goal of providing pre-K to all 3- and 4-year-olds by 2012. Starting in 2017, the PFA Expansion Program began when the State was awarded a federal Preschool Development Grant. The Illinois PFA and PFA Expansion programs are now combined to operate in almost all counties, however, enrollment priority continues to be for children who are considered at-risk. This is due to budget constraints preventing the ability to serve all children who might wish to attend. The program is funded through the state Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), which also supports the Prevention Initiative for children birth to age three. ECBG funding must be used to serve children age three or younger, in addition to 4-year-olds. ECBG funding for the 2019-2020 school year totaled \$543,738,100.

Funding for Preschool for All is awarded on a competitive basis to public schools, private child care, Head Start, faith-based centers, higher education institutions, and regional offices of education. To be eligible, children must have at least two risk factors, such as low income, history of family neglect, violence, or abuse, exposure to drug or alcohol abuse in the family, developmental delays, low parent education, and homelessness or unstable housing. A second level of priority for Preschool for All enrollment includes families with incomes at 400% of FPL, but currently there is no funding available for programs to serve children at this second priority level.

Preschool for All programs are required to provide instruction in children's home language if there are 20 or more English Language Learners (ELLs) with the same home language enrolled in a program. All pre-K teachers are required to meet bilingual education certification requirements. Language of instruction is determined locally if there are fewer than 20 ELLs with the same home language, however English as a Second Language and other home language supports may be provided.

ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
20	3	22*	28*	8

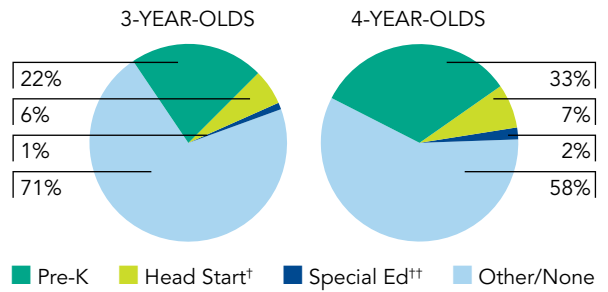
* Illinois did not report spending for the 2019-2020 school year so it was estimated based on 2018-2019 reported data.

ILLINOIS PRESCHOOL FOR ALL AND PRESCHOOL FOR ALL EXPANSION

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	85,183
School districts that offer state program	99% (counties)
Income requirement	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation	2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	22,342
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	23,210
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.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	IL 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	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, ECE SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Educator License	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	120 hours/5 years (teachers only); PD plans	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input 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.



RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	Not reported
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	Not reported
All reported spending per child enrolled*	Not reported

* 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

