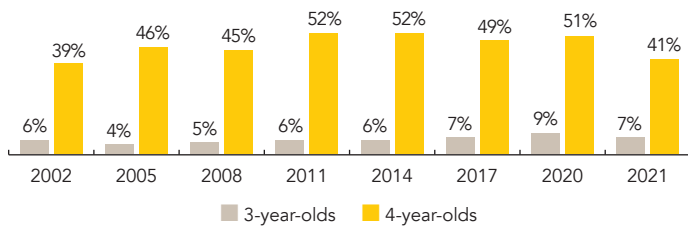
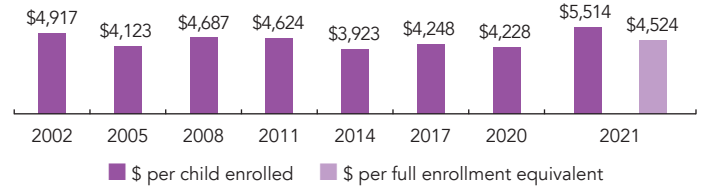


Texas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2021 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

During the 2020-2021 school year as the COVID-19 pandemic continued, Texas preschool enrolled 196,221 children, a decrease of 52,145 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$687,447,707 and all reported spending totaled \$1,080,687,664. State spending per child equaled \$5,514 in 2020-2021, up \$1,286 from 2019-2020, adjusted for inflation. Texas met 4 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

For the second year, programs serving at least 15 eligible 4-year-olds were required to transition to full-day services, while programs serving 3-year-olds had the option to continue to provide half-day services. Some programs were granted a waiver from providing full-day programs for 4-year-olds while additional facilities were identified.

Legislation was recently passed in Texas limiting preschool class sizes to 22 children per room. Prior to this legislation, there was no limit for public preschool class size.

BACKGROUND

In 1985, Texas began funding half-day prekindergarten for eligible 4-year-olds through the Texas Public School Prekindergarten program. Currently, districts with 15 or more eligible 4-year-olds are required to offer prekindergarten. Districts with 15 or more eligible 3-year-olds can also offer prekindergarten but are not required to do so. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Early Childhood Education Division oversees the free program in school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, and school districts are permitted to subcontract with nonpublic preschools to serve eligible children.

Students are eligible to participate in the Texas Public School Prekindergarten program if they meet at least one of the following conditions: qualify for free or reduced-price lunch (185% of FPL), are homeless, are in foster care, have a parent on active military duty or who was injured or killed on active duty, are unable to speak or comprehend English, and/or have a parent eligible for the Star of Texas Award.

In 2019, Texas used Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) funding to conduct a statewide 0-5 needs assessment, develop a statewide 0-5 strategic plan, increase parental choice and knowledge, share best practices, and improve overall quality of care. This work was led by the PDG team and the Texas Early Learning Council. Also in 2019, House Bill (HB) 3 was passed by the 86th Texas Legislature and signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 11. HB 3 impacts districts and open-enrollment charter schools serving pre-K through third grade students by addressing early education allotment, full-day high-quality pre-K for eligible 4-year-olds, expanded early education reporting, early learning progress monitoring tools (single kindergarten assessment with one alternative available), and early childhood partnerships.

The Children's Learning Institute at the University of Texas-Health Science Center, in partnership with the TEA and Texas Workforce Commission, has developed a comprehensive professional development platform for early childhood educators that is free to all public school teachers, Head Start programs, families, and child care providers.

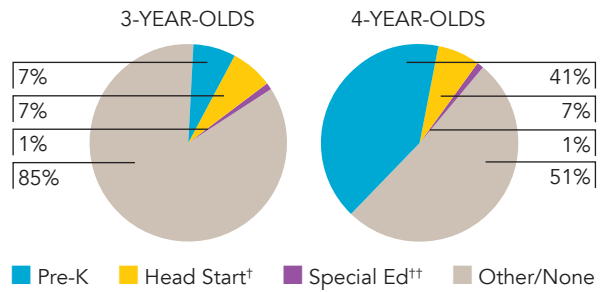
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
10	14	31	34	4

TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	196,221
School districts that offer state program	88%
Income requirement	185% FPL (one of several risk factors)
Minimum hours of operation	32,400 minutes (PK3), 75,600 minutes (PK4); 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	25,955
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	54,850
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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	TX 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	Approval process & supports	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	P-6	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	30 hours/year (teachers only); PD plans (teachers only); Coaching (some PK4 teachers only)	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	No limit (3-year-olds); Must strive for 1:11 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, immunizations	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement at the local level only	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$1,027,555,916
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,514
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$5,785

* 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

