

Virgin Islands

NO PROGRAM

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, the Virgin Islands Department of Education introduced a preschool program. Any child is eligible for the program once they meet the age requirement of four (4) by December 31st of the respective year. This program continues to date and is piloted in selected elementary schools in both districts. In addition to this, the Department of Human Services, which houses the Office Preschool Services, oversees early childhood education and care across multiple settings. The Department of Human Services uses local funds to surpass the federally required Head Start local match. Currently, almost 80% of low-income preschoolers are served through Head Start in the territory.

The Virgin Islands Child Care Revised Rules and Regulations provide standards that all child care and early childhood education facilities, including private centers, Head Start, and Early Head Start, must follow. All early childhood education teachers and directors were required to earn a CDA credential by June 2015, and 24 hours of professional development training is required each year. These regulations also establish maximum class sizes of 18 for 3-year-olds (with a 1:9 staff to child ratio) and 20 for 4-year-olds (with a 1:10 staff to child ratio).

The Virgin Islands Early Learning Guidelines' primary intent is to have a structure that aids with the comprehension and conveys an array of expectations that are developmentally appropriate to include shared responsibility and accountability amongst stakeholders. These standards are designed to improve the quality of care and education, focus on school readiness, and provide a common set of preschool standards across all settings, as well as provide teachers and parents/families with important information relating to the early learning years of young children ages three (3) through five (5).

The Guidelines provide milestones for what children should know, understand, and be able to do by the time they reach kindergarten in the following domains, (a) language and literacy; (b) mathematical understanding; (c) approaches to learning; (d) social, emotional, and values development; (e) creativity and the arts; (f) science; (g) social studies; and (h) physical health and development. The Guidelines also provide strategies for teachers, caregivers, families, and community members to help children achieve these goals. Content of the Guidelines is aligned with the Head Start Framework and the Common Core State Standards, adopted by the Department of Education.

The Virgin Islands Infant & Toddler Developmental Guidelines were released in 2013 and apply to all children, including children with disabilities and or developmentally delayed, and reflect expectations of what all children should know, understand, and be able to do by the time they reach age 3. They are aligned with the Early Learning Guidelines and cover the same domains. These guidelines are inclusive of all young children in all settings (e.g. home, child care facility, Early Head Start classroom), crafted in a manner that is observable by an adult, and provide them with information on ways to support a child's development.

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services was awarded \$725,112 under the Preschool Development Birth through Five (PDG B-5) grant in December 2018.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
No Program	

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
No Program

VIRGIN ISLANDS

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	0
School districts that offer state program	NA
Income requirement	NA
Minimum hours of operation	NA
Operating schedule	NA
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	78
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	794
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

NO PROGRAM

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$0
Local match required?	NA
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$0

* 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

