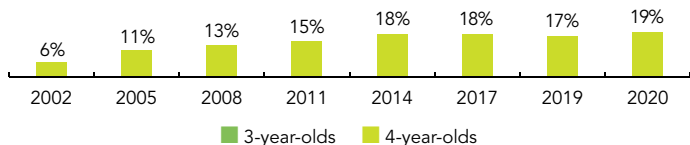
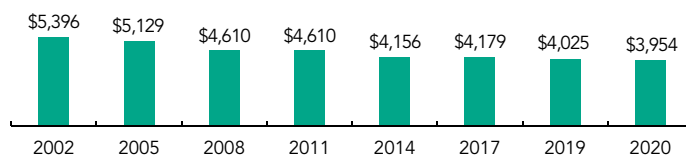


Virginia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2020 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

Virginia preschool enrolled 19,159 children in 2019-2020, an increase of 1,502 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$75,748,685, up \$4,679,170 (7%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$3,954 in 2019-2020, down \$71 from 2018-2019, adjusted for inflation. Virginia met 6 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

Virginia was one of 23 states awarded a three-year PDG B-5 renewal grant for \$11,178,750 designed to implement the strategic plan developed with the 2018 PDG B-5 planning grant. While timelines for grant activities may have been extended, there were no significant changes to the state's plan for PDG B-5 funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 13, 2020 state-funded preschool programs physically closed in public schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, first for two weeks, then for the remainder of the year. The state did not require programs to provide remote instruction when buildings were physically closed; this was determined locally. There was a mix of in-person and remote instruction when the 2020-2021 school year began.

BACKGROUND

The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) began in 1995 to serve at-risk 4-year-olds not enrolled in existing preschool programs. During the 2019-2020 school year, VPI programs operated in 96% of eligible school divisions. Programs are required to operate for a minimum of three hours per day, though 97% of children attend full-day programs throughout the school year. VPI is funded by state lottery revenues as well as a required local match. Funding for VPI is available to school divisions where there are at-risk 4-year-olds who are not served by Head Start.

Virginia's federal PDG program, VPI+, expanded services to 4-year-olds in high needs communities through the 2018-2019 school year. After the grant ended, the General Assembly provided \$6,139,559 to sustain PDG funded slots during the 2019-2020 school year.

VPI eligibility has always been based on risk factors including, but not limited to: family income at or below 200% FPL, family income at or below 350% FPL for students with special needs or disabilities, homelessness, or parent(s) with limited education. A total of 15% of slots can be filled using locally determined eligibility criteria unless a locality applies and is approved for a waiver to fill more than 15% of slots using local at-risk criteria.

In recent years, the Virginia General Assembly has made several investments in supporting improved school readiness through state-supported preschool. Several investments were made in 2018-2019 aimed at understanding and supporting quality teacher-child interactions and effective research-based curriculum implementation across every VPI classroom. Through this investment, all VPI teachers have received feedback and targeted professional development based on CLASS observations. This was supported through a partnership with The University of Virginia's Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL).

Beginning in 2020-2021 some VPI programs will participate in the first practice year of the state's new required Unified Measurement and Improvement System. The new unified system will use measures of teacher-child interactions and curriculum implementation to support improvement across all publicly-funded birth-to-five program.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
31	None Served

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
30	22

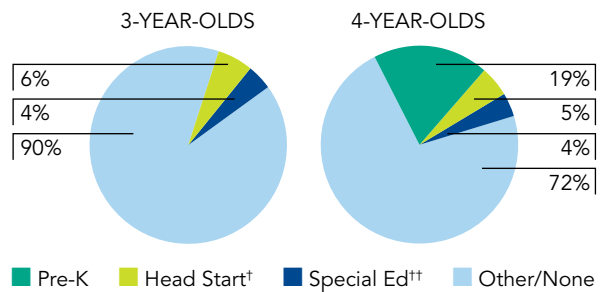
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
6

VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	19,159
School districts that offer state program	92% (school divisions)
Income requirement	200% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	3 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	11,217
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	11,229
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	VA 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); HSD (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, or CDA	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD (public); None (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	18 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:9 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more; Referrals not required	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input 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"/>

6

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

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$75,748,685
Local match required?	Yes
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,954
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,239

* 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

