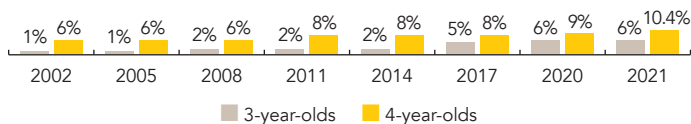
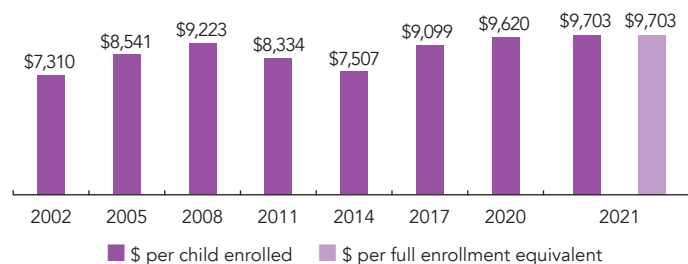


Washington

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, Washington’s Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) enrolled 14,649 children in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), an increase of 649 children from the prior year. State funding for ECEAP totaled \$141,535,000, up \$6,854,861 (5%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child on ECEAP equaled \$9,662 in 2020-2021, up \$42 from 2019-2020, adjusted for inflation. Washington ECEAP met 9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

Washington’s Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also served 856 children in a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program. State spending for TK was \$8,910,678 and state spending per child was \$10,410. TK met 6 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT’S NEW

ECEAP programs operated through a mix of in-person and remote instruction during the 2020-2021 school year. All programs planned to be open in Fall 2021 but some programs switched to remote learning due to COVID-19 cases and exposures. The state used CARES funding to provide a summer program during summer 2020 and received funding from a private donor for a summer program in 2021. Priority for the summer program was for children transitioning out of ECEAP into kindergarten.

ECEAP added 649 more slots during the 2020-2021 school year and another 428 for 2021-2022. The newly released 2020 ECEAP Performance Standards addressed requirements for both in-person and remote services. ECEAP also continued participation in the Partnership for Preschool Improvement initiative. Through this work the ECEAP team set quality strategies, outcomes, metrics and goals. The funding for this work ended in June 2021. The Tribal Pathway Workgroup provided recommendations to the legislature on meeting the needs of Tribal Sovereign Nations who provide ECEAP. In 2021-2022, the state’s Fair Start for Kids Act (FSFKA) legislation funded 34 Early ECEAP slots, in addition to the 144 slots funded through the Preschool Development Grant (PDG). This legislation also moved ECEAP entitlement to 2026-2027. Income eligibility was expanded to include children in families at or below 36% SMI beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. Other expanded eligibility categories include children currently experiencing homelessness, children who participated in high quality birth to three state or federally funded early learning programming, and tribal children at or below 100% SMI. Income eligibility categories will increase again in 2030-31. Additionally, FSFKA continued and expanded Complex Needs funding to support ECEAP and Early ECEAP contractors. This additional funding supports contractors in providing least restrictive and inclusive environments to children with developmental delays, disabilities behavioral needs or other unique needs.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is included in this report for the first time.

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Washington Department of Early Learning merged into the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), which oversees early learning programs along with child protective services and foster care. DCYF has a goal to ensure 90% of children in the state are ready for kindergarten by 2020 with race and income eliminated as predictors of their readiness. The state ECEAP, created in 1985 to prepare 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families for success in school and in life, is a big part of the state’s strategy to accomplish this goal. In recent years, both funding and enrollment for ECEAP have been growing. ECEAP funding comes from the state general fund, the Education Legacy Trust Account funded by estate taxes, and the “opportunity pathways account” financed by lottery proceeds. In 2010, the state Legislature established the ECEAP as a statutory entitlement for all eligible children, not funded by Head Start, by the 2018-2019 school year — a deadline recently extended to 2026-2027.

ECEAP focuses on the whole child and provides comprehensive nutrition, health, education and family support services to Washington’s most at-risk young children. To be eligible for ECEAP currently, children must be 3- or 4-years-old and live in households with an income at or below 110% of FPL, or have an IEP (regardless of income). Up to 10% of ECEAP enrollment may include children whose families do not meet the poverty requirement but experience other risk factors that could jeopardize learning, development, or school success.

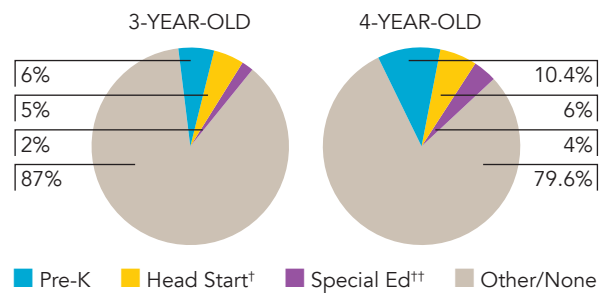
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WASHINGTON STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	15,505
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	8,808
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,894
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

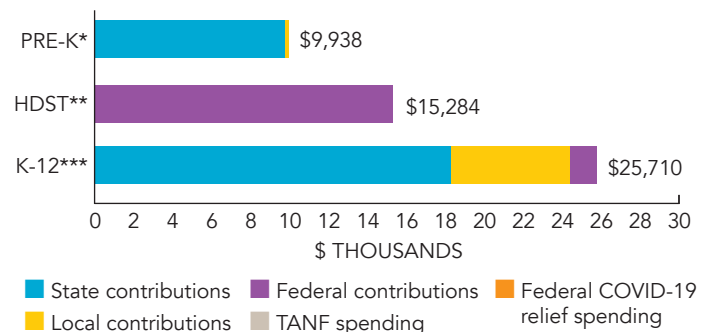


† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
 ** Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$150,445,678
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$9,703
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$9,938

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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.

ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	ECEAP	TK
36	15	5	9	9	6

OSPI's Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a kindergarten program for children who have not yet turned 5 and who do not otherwise have access to high-quality early learning experiences. Districts may offer TK programs, but they are not required to do so. The requirements for TK are the same as those for regular kindergarten established by RCW 28A.150.315. While school districts in Washington have always had the ability to enroll children into kindergarten early, TK has gained momentum in recent years, as a strategy for closing opportunity gaps.

Washington's overall support for state-funded preschool is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses on ECEAP and the fourth page on TK.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECEAP)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment 14,649

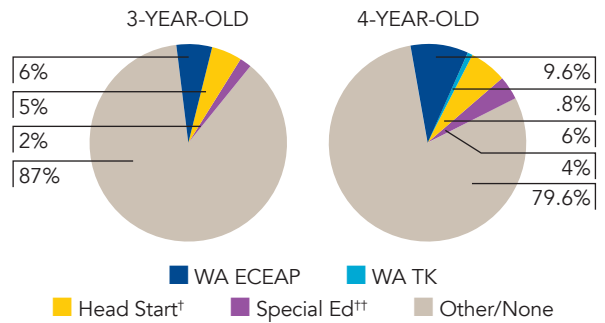
School districts that offer state program 95% (counties)

Income requirement 110% FPL

Minimum hours of operation 3 hours/day

Operating schedule School year (part- & school day);
Calendar year (working-day)

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	WA ECEAP 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	AA	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA or Initial or higher WA State ECE Certificate or equivalent (12 credits)	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	20 hours/year (teachers); 15 hours/year (assistants); PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" 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.

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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending \$141,535,000

Local match required? No

State spending per child enrolled \$9,662

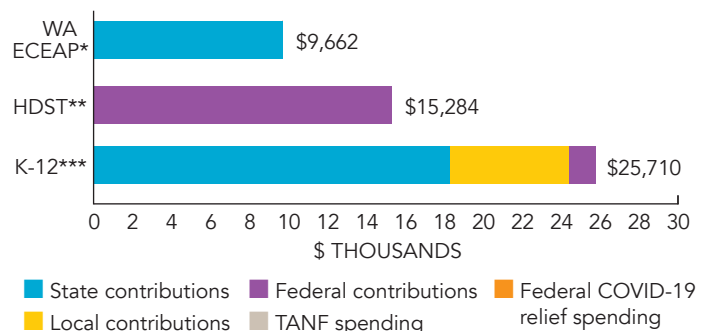
All reported spending per child enrolled* \$9,662

* 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

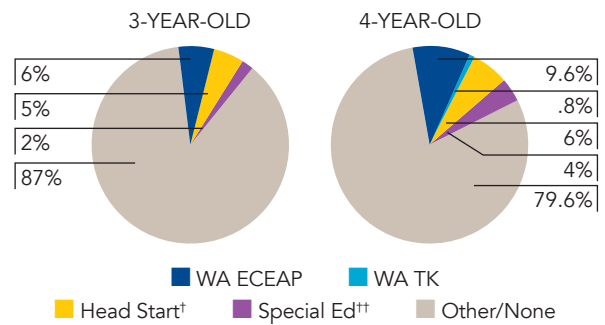


TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (TK)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	856
School districts that offer state program.....	11%
Income requirement.....	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation.....	27 hours, 45 minutes/ week; 5 days/week
Operating schedule.....	School or academic year

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	WA TK 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, Elem. Ed., ECE SpEd, SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	100 hours/5 years; PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	No limit (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	No limit (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input 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	\$8,910,678
Local match required?.....	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$10,410
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$14,660

* 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

