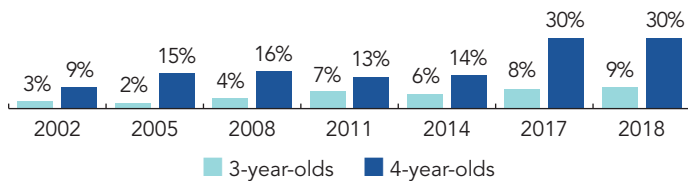
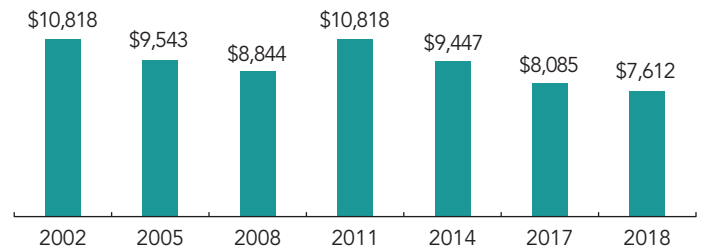


Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2018 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

Connecticut preschool programs enrolled 14,585 children in 2017-2018, a decrease of 193 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$111,027,561, down \$8,455,029 (7%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$7,612 in 2017-2018, down \$473 from 2016-2017, adjusted for inflation. Connecticut met an average of 5 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2018 for \$8.59 million to increase the state's ability to link families to needed services through aligning and improving coordination among existing agencies and programs; advance an infrastructure for data sharing across the silos of government to better support families; and design and implement a performance management approach focused on measurable child and family outcomes.

BACKGROUND

Connecticut serves prekindergarten children in three state-funded programs: School Readiness Program (SR), Child Day Care Contracts (CDCC), and Smart Start, all supervised by the OEC. Non-Head Start SR, CDCC, and Smart Start programs have three years to become NAEYC accredited. Programs not NAEYC accredited or Head Start approved are required to have annual ECERS ratings by state-approved raters to help prepare them for accreditation.

Connecticut has provided funding for CDCC for 40 years through a purchase-of-service contracting system. CDCCs are jointly funded through state funding and the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) and must operate for at least 10 hours per day. CDCC has been included in this report since 2014-2015, when the program's finance structure was revised in ways that meet the NIEER definition for a state-funded pre-K program. In 2017-2018, CDCC served 3,817 children, including 2,178 preschool-aged children. Eligibility requirements target children with household incomes below 75% SMI for state funding and/or children with household incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level for SSBG funds. CDCC programs, which must be licensed as a child care facility by the state, may operate under the contract held by an elementary or secondary school, nursery school, preschool, day care center, group day care home, family day care home, family resource center, Head Start program, or local or regional board of education.

SR was founded in 1997 to expand access to early childhood programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. Financial support is available to 21 Priority School Readiness districts, as defined by legislation, and 46 Competitive School Readiness municipalities that have at least one school in which 40% or more of children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, or fall within the 50 lowest wealth-ranked towns in the state. Any family can apply for School Readiness spaces in designated Priority or Competitive municipalities; however, 60% of children enrolled in each municipality must meet the income guideline of at-or-below 75% of the SMI.

Smart Start was created during the 2014 legislative session to expand publicly funded pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds in public school settings. Funding is distributed to local or regional boards of education through a competitive grant process. In 2017-2018, 24 school districts received funding to offer, at minimum, a six-hour, five-day-a-week program that operated for at least 1,080 hours per year.

In 2014, Connecticut received a federal Preschool Development Grant-Expansion. In 2017-2018, there were a total of 740 PDG-funded preschool spaces in the state: 439 were new preschool slots that operated separately from the three state-funded preschool programs, 256 spaces were dually funded in combination with SR, and 45 spaces were dually funded with CDCC. These dually funded spaces are included in the programs' total enrollment counts.

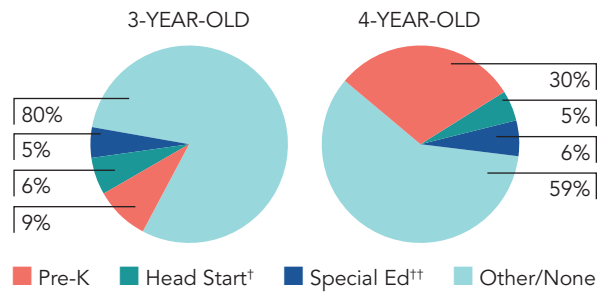
Connecticut's overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for CDCC, SR, and Smart Start is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The fourth page focuses solely on CDCC, the fifth on SR, and the sixth on Smart Start.

CONNECTICUT STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	14,585
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	5,574
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	4,400
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	280

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

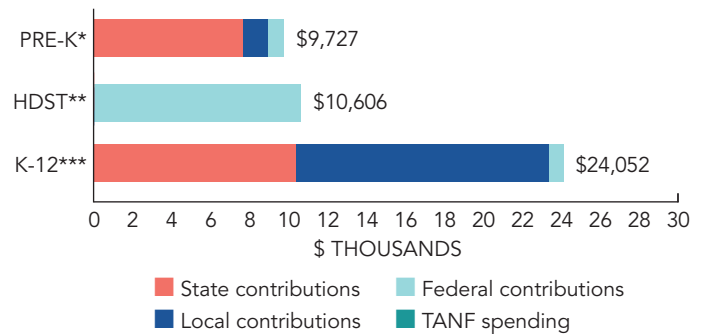


† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K (CDCC).
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$111,027,561
State Head Start spending	\$5,048,843
State spending per child enrolled	\$7,612
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$9,727

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	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
21	10

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
9	5

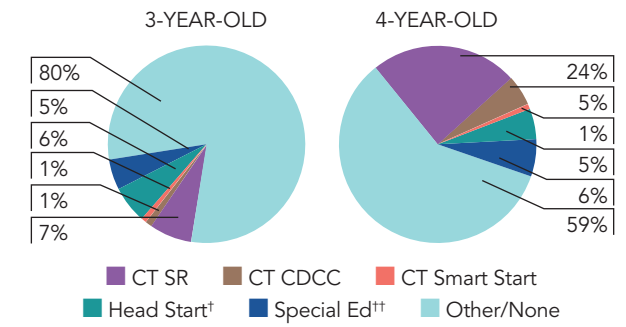
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
5

CONNECTICUT CHILD DAY CARE CONTRACTS

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment 2,178
 School districts that offer state program ... 28% (towns/communities)
 Income requirement 75% SMI
 Minimum hours of operation 10 hours/day; 5 days/week
 Operating schedule Full calendar year

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K (CDCC).
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	CT CDCC 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	CDA + 12 EC credits	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	CDA + 12 EC credits	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Based on Head Start or NAEYC	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	20 hours/year; PD plans (some teachers and assistant teachers)	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	Immunizations, full physical exam (no vision or hearing)	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations (non-accredited programs); Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>
			5

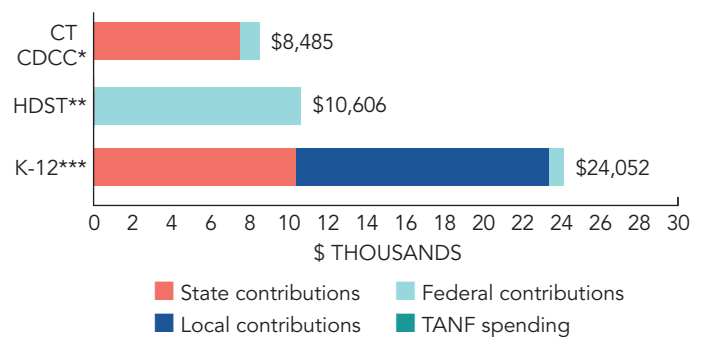
For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending \$16,225,367
 Local match required? No
 State spending per child enrolled \$7,450
 All reported spending per child enrolled* \$8,485

* 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

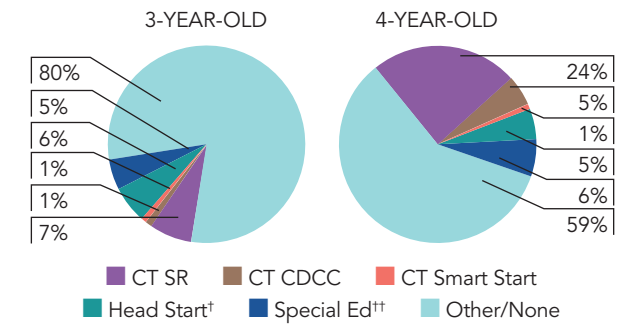


CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	11,752
School districts that offer state program ...	40% (towns/communities)
Income requirement	75% SMI
Minimum hours of operation	2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Determined locally

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K (CDCC).
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	CT SR 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	CDA + 12 EC credits	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	CDA + 12 EC credits	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD (public); Based on Head Start or NAEYC (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	9 hours/year (teachers only); PD plans (some nonpublic teachers)	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	Referral only	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations (non-accredited programs); Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

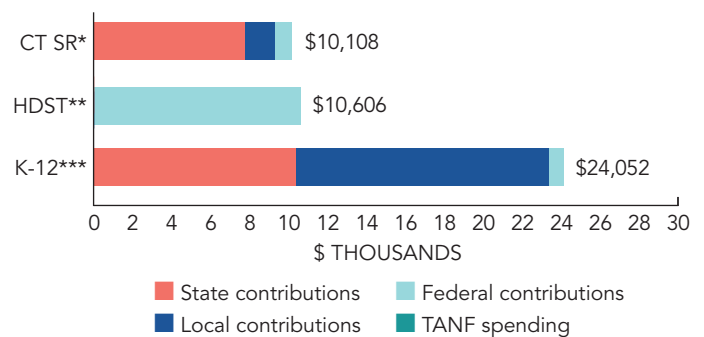
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$90,764,459
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$7,723
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$10,108

* 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

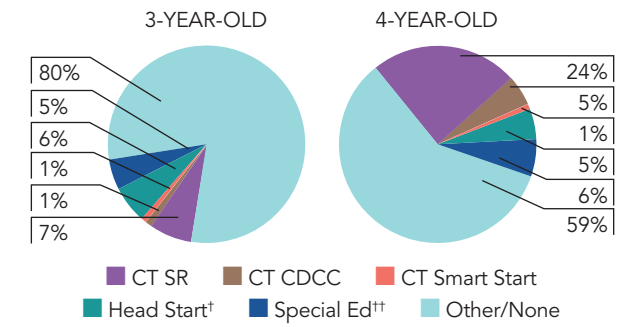


CONNECTICUT SMART START

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	655
School districts that offer state program ...	14% (towns/communities)
Income requirement	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation	6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K (CDCC).
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	CT SMART START 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	Pre-K or EC	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	PD plans (teachers only)	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	18 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:9 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	None	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations (non-accredited programs); Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

6

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$4,037,735
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$6,164
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,027

* 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

