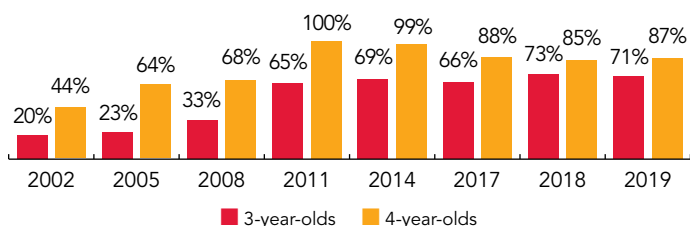
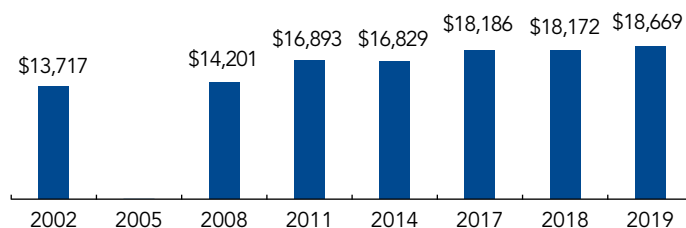


District of Columbia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2019 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

District of Columbia preschool enrolled 13,763 children in 2018-2019, an increase of 271 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$256,938,561, up \$11,760,137 (5%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$18,669 in 2018-2019, up \$497 from 2017-2018, adjusted for inflation. The District of Columbia met 4 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

In 2018 the District of Columbia was awarded a \$10.6 million Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award to strengthen DC's existing infrastructure of B-5 programs with a targeted focus on children experiencing homelessness, children with special needs, children in foster care and/or children in families with very low incomes. Through the PDG B-5, the District conducted a needs assessment to better understand parents' awareness, access and utilization of ECE services throughout the mixed delivery system and to create a strategic plan that outlines systematic goals, objectives and actions for the District's early childhood system. The PDG B-5 supported activities to improve program quality and maximizing parents' knowledge of, access to, and choice of high-quality ECE including: providing grants to purchase equipment and make quality improvements; strengthening families' access to trauma-informed practices; ongoing professional development, technical assistance and coaching for educators as well as opportunities for professionals to share best practices; improving messaging to and communication with parents; and creating resources for an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) to house and integrate data from educational programs across the District.

BACKGROUND

Among the first in the nation to invest in early education, DC has offered pre-K since the 1960s. DC began to bolster its investment in pre-K significantly in 2008 through the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Amendment Act of 2008 (Pre-K Act). The Pre-K Act expanded the DC public pre-K program to provide quality, universally accessible pre-K via a mixed-delivery system in DC Public Schools (DCPS), public charter schools (PCS), and publicly-funded community-based organizations (CBOs) that participate in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE) Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program and the child care subsidy program. OSSE oversees DC's Universal Pre-K Program, including programs in DCPS and CBOs. PCSs are authorized and monitored by the DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB). Additionally, the District of Columbia's Birth to Five Head Start initiative helps thousands of children and their families through early learning and comprehensive services.

Pre-K programs operate five days a week for a minimum of 6.5 hours per day and a minimum of 180 instructional days per year. Given the high availability and participation, this program can be considered universal, as the District of Columbia has a higher percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled than any U.S. state or territory. Funding for public pre-K programs is based on the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula, with spending per pupil adjusted through a series of weights for higher-cost grade levels and supplemental funding weights for students with particular needs.

The common measure of quality for pre-K classrooms in DC is the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). CLASS data is used by OSSE, in partnership with DC Public Schools and the PCSB, as part of the STAR Framework, which results in a school rating and is included on each school's DC School Report Card. The PCSB also uses CLASS in its Performance Management Framework, which provides all public charter local education agencies with an annual score. For CBOs, CLASS assessments are used for Capital Quality, DC's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). For fiscal year 2018, pre-K classroom quality improved across all sections—DCPS, public charter schools and CBOs.

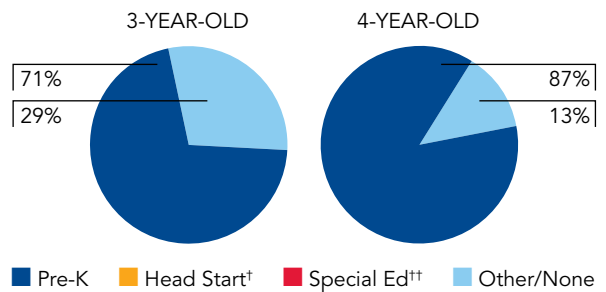
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
1	1	1	1	4

D.C. UNIVERSAL PRE-K

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	13,763
School districts that offer state program	100% (wards)
Income requirement	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation	6.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	1,112
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	2,150
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.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	D.C. 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 (DCPS & CBO); Determined locally (PCS)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Elem. Ed. (DCPS); ECE, CD (CBO); Determined locally (PCS)	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Paraprofessional Certification (DCPS); AA (CBO); Determined locally (PCS)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	6 days/year (DCPS teachers); 15 hours/year (DCPS assistant teachers); 30 hours/year (CBO); PD plans (DCPS teachers & CBO); Coaching (DCPS & CBO)	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	DCPS & CBO only: 16 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	DCPS & CBO only: 1:8 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (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.

4

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$256,938,561
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$18,669
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$19,710

* 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

