Ohio



he Ohio Public Preschool Program (PSP) was officially established in 1990, after four years as a pilot program. Ohio's focus is on ensuring children have access to quality programs through public preschool and publicly funded child care. The state has worked to remove barriers to funding, so all types of programs have access to both public preschool and child care funds. This report focuses on the Ohio Department of Education's publicly funded preschool program, the Ohio Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, which does not include the publicly funded preschool programs in child care or Head Start (where more than 38,000 preschool-aged children are served in highly rated programs).

Ohio's child outcomes data show that children participating in the public preschool program perform better on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment than demographically similar children not participating in the preschool programs. Ohio is operating its publicly funded programs under common program and child standards, so a significant number of preschool-aged children receive services through a combination of these preschool programs, which are required to be highly rated. Additionally, eligible providers expanded from school districts to include highly rated child care providers, charter schools, and chartered nonpublic schools. In the 2014-2015 school year, all eligible providers rated as high quality were able to apply for grants to implement the program.

The state added \$22 million to fund preschool in the 2013-2015 state budget biennium. This increased the number of funded children from 5,700 in 2012-2013 to 11,090 in 2014-2015. In 2015-2016, the state added \$15 million to the \$45 million already being invested in ECE. This increased the number of funded children to 14,765 in 2015-2016. Ohio disseminated a total of \$63,768,000 to serve 15,942 preschool-aged children in 2016-2017. Age-eligibility for ECE increased from age 3 to age 4 in 2016-2017.

Through this program, sites have been monitored annually for quality via desk audits, internal monitoring materials, proposal of plans and documentation, along with annual licensing visits, classroom observations, and child assessments. Beginning in 2013- 2014, Ohio began using its expanded tiered quality rating and improvement system as the monitoring system across all Ohio programs including public preschool and child care programs. Through this monitoring system, programs submit annual documentation of desk audits and program plans. Programs also receive on-site visits, including classroom observations every two to three years based on the rating level of the program. The ECE program has been evaluated for process quality using the ELLCO tool, with various stages completed in 2009, 2011, and 2012. Programs began participating in Ohio's tiered quality rating and improvement system during the 2013-2014 school year.



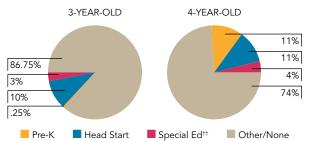
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OHIO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment15,94	2
School districts that offer state program	%
Income requirement 200% FP	Ľ
Minimum hours of operation2.5 hours/da	y
Operating scheduleSchool or academic year	ar
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 414,54	0
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	8
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST					
POLICY	OH PRE-K REQUIREMENT	CURRENT BENCHMARK	MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?	NEW BENCHMARK	
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive		Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	New in 2015-2016	_	Approval process & supports	
Teacher degree	AA	BA		BA	
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	\checkmark	Specializing in pre-K	
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent		CDA or equivalent	
Staff professional development	20 hours/2 years; PD plans	For teachers: At least 15 hours/year		For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	
Maximum class size	24 (3-year-olds); 28 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower		20 or lower	
Staff-child ratio	1:12 (3-year-olds); 1:14 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better		1:10 or better	
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more; Support services	Vision, hearing, health & at least one support service		Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	
Meals	Depends on length of program day	At least one meal/day		Discontinued	
Monitoring/ Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Site visits		Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan	
			4		

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	
Approval process & supports	
BA	
Specializing in pre-K	
CDA or equivalent	
For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	
20 or lower	
1:10 or better	
Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	
Discontinued	—
Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan	
	5

MEETS NEW **BENCHMARK?**

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$63,768,000
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,000
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,000

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Pre-K}}$ 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.

