

NO PROGRAM

During the 2018-2019 school year, Utah did not provide a state-funded preschool program meeting the criteria for this report. However, during the 2019 legislative session, the state of Utah passed SB 166, "School Readiness Amendments", to improve the coordination of preschool programming. The state appropriated \$6 million of general funds to continue the support of seat funding previously provided by TANF through the High-Quality School Readiness Initiative Expansion (HQSR-E) grant. This was combined with the ongoing \$3 million from the previous HQSR grant, for a total of \$9 million supporting both the Becoming High Quality (BQ) and Expanded Student Access to High Quality School Readiness Programs (ESA) grant programs. With the change from TANF funding to the use of state general funds, Utah will meet the qualifications of a state preschool program as defined by NIEER, starting in the 2019-20 school year.

Previous funding for preschool programs was appropriated in 2014 with the Utah School Readiness Initiative, which operated with the goals of increasing school readiness, improving academic performance, and reducing remediation costs associated with poor academic outcomes. Under the initiative, the School Readiness Board could enter into results-based financing contracts with private entities to fund proven high-quality early childhood education programs serving at-risk students.

In 2016, the HQSR-E grant program was established to expand access to high-quality school readiness programs for eligible children. The HQSR-E grant program provided grant funds to LEAs with existing early education programs deemed high-quality, as determined by the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale Third Edition (ECERS-3) and some additional rubric criteria. School readiness programs were eligible to apply for HQSR-E funding if they provided services to economically disadvantaged 4-year-old children, could illustrate how funds would be used to expand their preschool programs, and were deemed high-quality based on the criteria noted above. The HQSR-E program ended in June 2019 but was replaced by the ESA grant program.

With the passing of SB166, the School Readiness Board governs both the BQ and ESA grant programs for both public and private providers. The BQ program provides funding to help existing preschool programs increase elements of high-quality. The ESA program allows high quality preschool programs to expand access and provide seats to eligible students. An eligible student is one who is economically disadvantaged and whose parent or guardian reports they also have experienced at least one risk factor (mother is 18 or younger, parents with a low reading ability, exposure to substance abuse, etc.) or a student that is an English learner.

This new legislation also codified Utah's UPSTART Program. The program provides a home-based, technology-delivered kindergarten readiness program to children throughout the state, and prioritizes children from low-income families. The program includes an annual independent evaluation contracted by the Utah State Board of Education.

The Utah State Board of Education has been facilitating the writing of academic standards that are expected to be released and published by Fall 2020. The writing committee consists of professionals currently working in higher education, Head Start programs, the Office of Child Care, public preschool coordinators, and preschool general and special educators. The Utah Early Learning Standards: Ages 3-5 will provide essential academic standards that are developmentally appropriate in seven content areas including English Language Arts, Fine Arts, Health, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, and Social Studies.

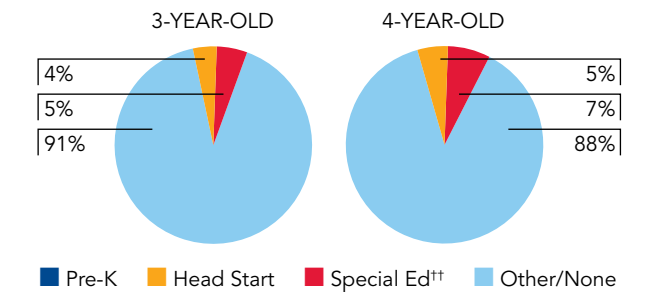
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
No Program		No Program		No Program

UTAH

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	0
School districts that offer state program	NA
Income requirement	NA
Minimum hours of operation	NA
Operating schedule.....	NA
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	6,460
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	4,909
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

NO PROGRAM

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$0
Local match required?	NA
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$0

* 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

