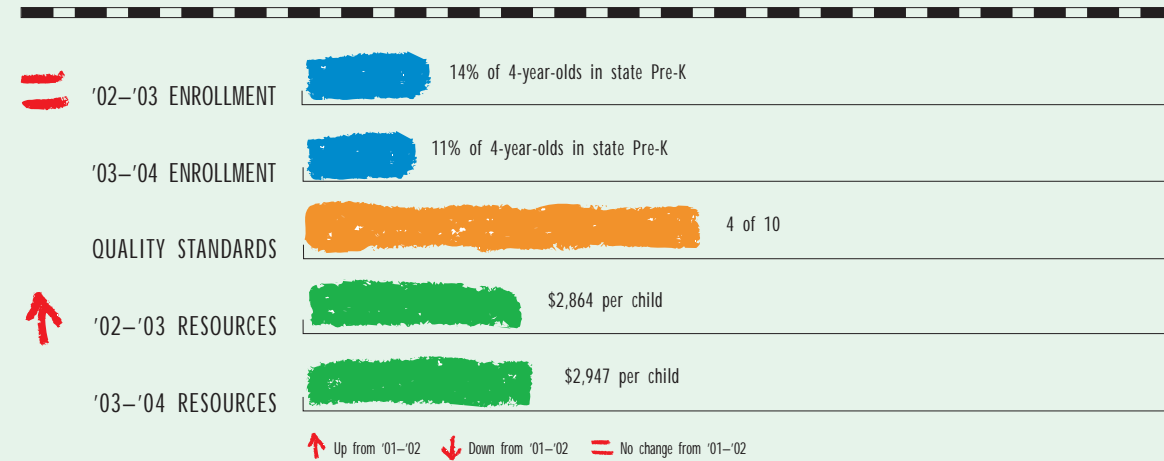


# Colorado



In an effort to reduce the dropout rate in the state, the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) began in 1988. While some CPP funds are used to provide full-day kindergarten in certain districts (serving 1,494 children in 2002–2003), funding is used primarily to provide at-risk children with a half-day, comprehensive prekindergarten program. Additional funding sources, such as federal Head Start funds, may be combined with state CPP funds to extend the length of the program day or to provide extra services to children. Among the risk factors used to determine eligibility are homelessness, drug or alcohol abuse by a family member, low parental education, and eligibility for free or reduced-cost lunch. Four-year-olds must have at least one risk factor to be eligible, while 3-year-olds must have at least three risk factors to qualify. Only public schools may receive funding directly from the state. Local school districts may subcontract with Head Start and community-based child care providers to provide CPP classes.

The 2003 legislative session resulted in a 2,000-slot reduction in the number of children served in the Colorado Preschool Program. A total of 936 3-year-olds and 7,047 4-year-olds were served by CPP, using \$26,589,159 in state funds during the 2003–2004 school year.

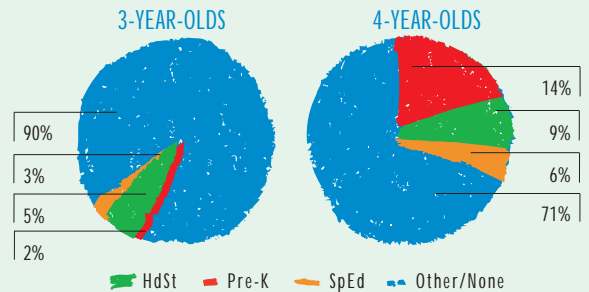
A consortium of statewide organizations has been formed to create the framework for a cohesive, effective early childhood system in Colorado. This Early Childhood State Systems Team includes representatives from the Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Educare, and a number of other organizations. Activities of the consortium include work on a public engagement campaign and a plan for measuring outcomes and quality within the early childhood system.



## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	10,923 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program	87%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Half-day, less than 5 days/week <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	5,507
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	9,133
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

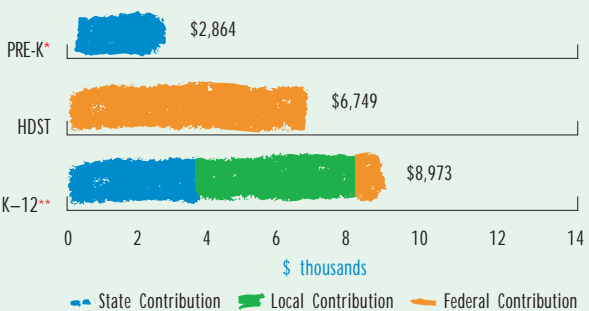
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Not comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	CDA <sup>3</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Meets CDA requirements	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	10 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	15		
4-year-olds	15		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:8		
4-year-olds	1:8		
Screening/referral requirements	Health only; vision and hearing determined locally	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	1 parent conference and support services <sup>4</sup>	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	Varies <sup>5</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL:  
**4**  
of 10

## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$31,287,685 <sup>6</sup>
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,864 <sup>7</sup>
State spending per 3-year-old	\$42
State spending per 4-year-old	\$395

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.  
\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> This figure includes 1,494 5-year-olds served in full-day kindergarten programs.  
<sup>2</sup> Most programs operate 4 days per week with the fifth day funded to provide home visits, teacher planning time, or staff training. Full-day programs have difficulty allocating time for home visits.  
<sup>3</sup> In the event that a teacher with a CDA is not available, an AA in early childhood education or child development becomes the minimum requirement.  
<sup>4</sup> Support services include parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.  
<sup>5</sup> Meals and nutritious snacks must be served at suitable intervals. Children who are in the program for more than 4 hours per day or during evenings must be offered a meal that meets at least one-third of the child's daily nutritional needs.  
<sup>6</sup> CPP is funded by the School Finance Act. Funding for school districts is provided first by local sources, including revenues, property taxes and specific ownership taxes. State monies are then used to fund any shortfall. The state share is about 61% of total program funding.  
<sup>7</sup> This amount is an average that is reflective of school finance money only. In FY 2002–2003, funding levels for CPP ranged from \$2,587 to \$6,000 per child, depending on the funding level for the school district.