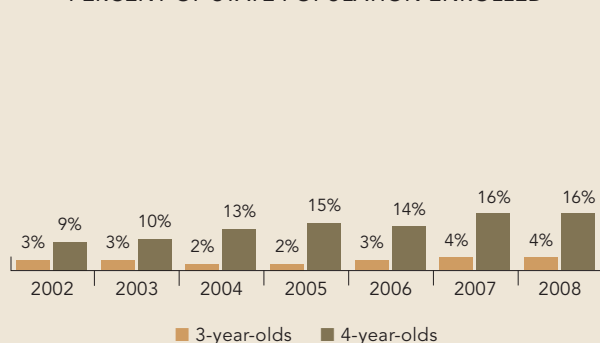


Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2008 DOLLARS)



Connecticut established the School Readiness program in 1997 to improve preschool access for 3- and 4-year-old children. The program serves children in any town with a priority school and any town in the 50 lowest wealth ranked towns in the state. School Readiness funds are allocated by the state directly to priority school readiness districts, but are awarded to other towns through competitive grants. School Readiness services can be provided through public schools, Head Start programs, and child care centers. In communities participating in the program, the chief elected official and the district school superintendent establish a School Readiness Council to provide direction to the local programs.

The School Readiness program offers different space types in order to accommodate working and non-working families. The space type options include full-day, school-day, and part-day. Full-day spaces are available 5 days per week, 7-10 hours per day for 50 weeks per year. School-day spaces are available 5 days per week, 6 hours per day for 180 days per year. Part-day spaces are available 5 days per week, 2 ½ hours per day for 180 days per year. At least 60 percent of children enrolled in the program must have a family income at or below 75 percent of the state median income.

Connecticut also has a Department of Social Services program that serves approximately 3,700 children up to age 5 with a total fiscal year 2008 spending of \$46,934,814. Children may attend for free if their family household income is less than 75 percent of the state median income, but families are required to go through a redetermination of fee every six months so the fee could change for a family within a program year.

In 2007-2008, Connecticut also dedicated \$5,500,000 million in state funds to supplement federal Head Start. These funds created approximately 450 additional slots and were also used to provide additional services, extend the program day and year, and support program quality enhancements.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
22	11

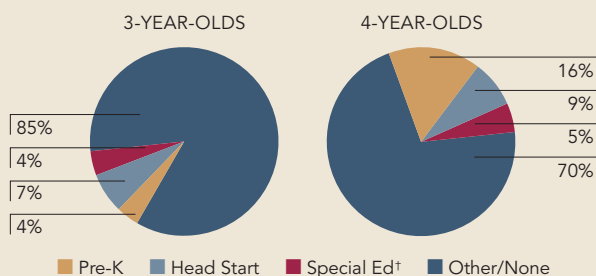
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
5	2

CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	8,699 ¹
School districts that offer state program	38% (communities)
Income requirement	60% of children must be at or below 75% SMI
Hours of operation	Determined by type of slot ²
Operating schedule.....	Determined by type of slot ²
Special education enrollment	4,764
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	6,193
State-funded Head Start enrollment	489 ³

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



† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	CDA + 12 credits in EC ⁴	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	Meets CDA requirements	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	6 clock hours ⁵	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health, dental; ⁶	Vision, hearing, health; and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
and support services	and support services ⁷	at least 1 support service	
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁸	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

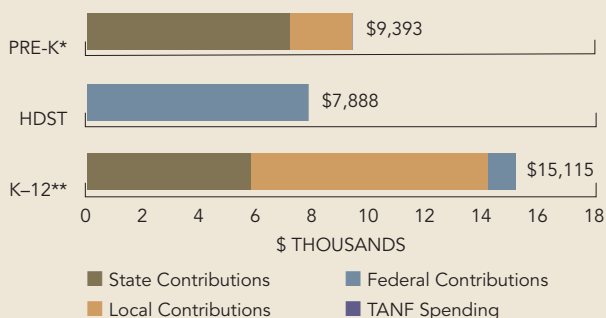
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

6

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$62,465,669
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$5,500,000
State spending per child enrolled	\$7,181
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$9,393

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 '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ The state did not break enrollment into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds, so all age breakdowns are estimates using the averages from state programs that did have age counts.

² There are four types of slots, including full-day (7-10 hours)/full-year (50 weeks/year); school-day (6 hours)/school-year (180 days/year); part-day (2.5 hours)/school-year (180 to 250 days/year); and extended-day (slots that extend the hours, days, and weeks of a non-School Readiness program to meet full-day, full-year requirements) All programs operate 5 days per week. Funding levels vary by the type of slot.

³ This figure is based on the federal PIR total of non-ACF-funded enrollment and the proportion of all enrollees who were ages 3 or 4.

⁴ The majority of public schools with School Readiness classrooms have a certified teacher present for at least 2.5 hours per day.

⁵ All school readiness staff must complete two annual trainings in early childhood education and one annual training in serving children with disabilities. They must

also document training in emerging literacy, diversity in the classroom, and licensing requirements for training in nutrition, safety, CPR, First Aid, and health.

⁶ All children must have an annual well-child checkup by their health care provider that conforms to EPSDT standards. Programs must provide vision, hearing, and dental screenings directly or through contract with another agency.

⁷ Support services include education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and family literacy and ESL.

⁸ Programs are required to serve one snack to children who attend fewer than 5 hours per day and one snack plus one meal to children in class for 5 to 9 hours per day. Children attending more than 8 hours per day must be provided one snack and two meals or two snacks and one meal. Either the program or the parent may provide the food.