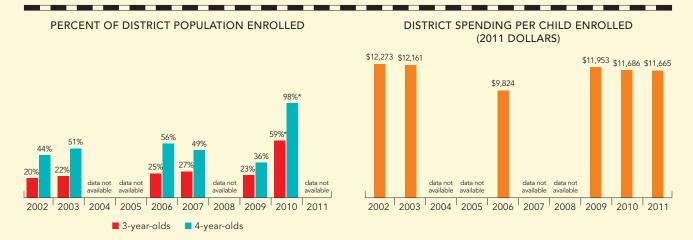
# District of Columbia



ince the 1960s, the District of Columbia has provided funding for prekindergarten programs. In 2008, the District of Columbia passed the Pre-Kindergarten Enhancement and Expansion Amendment Act, which aims to provide high-quality, universally available prekindergarten education services through a mixed delivery system across all education sectors, while improving both quality and access. As of 2010, community-based organizations could participate in the program, after emergency legislation increased access for these providers. All 3- and 4-year-olds in the District of Columbia are eligible to participate, and enrollment has consistently increased throughout the systems since 2010.

The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is responsible for the distribution of funds based on the cost-per-pupil funding formula and for administering the comprehensive plan to provide high-quality pre-K in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), public charter schools, and community-based organizations by 2014. During the 2008-2009 school year, the program was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes.

In the 2010-2011 school year, DCPS piloted blended classrooms that enroll pre-K students funded through various sources in the pre-K program. Non-public providers were also granted additional freedom to manage their own contracts for technical assistance and comprehensive health service consultants. In 2012, OSSE will focus on enhancing professional practices, providing professional development, and dedicating resources to support the improvement of educational success of all children from birth to age 5.

Participating programs in charter school settings are here referred to as D.C. Public Charter School Pre-K and are also administered by the D.C. Public Charter School Board (PCSB). Charter schools that participated in the public school program were required to meet the standards set by OSSE as well as those set by the charter board. The Charter program began requiring the development of specific early childhood accountability plans for each school during the 2010-2011 year. The 2011-2012 program year will bring a revised Performance Development Review (PDR) to better analyze early childhood indicators.

The District of Columbia has sought to align early learning programs, including district-funded preschool and pre-K, Head Start, and special education, to increase availability of services. Unduplicated figures could not be provided, but a majority of 3- and 4-year-olds are receiving services.

The District of Columbia has the unique situation of being a city that is not within a state. Due to the differences between city-level and statewide programs, the District's preschool initiatives cannot be directly compared to state programs. Therefore, the District is not ranked among the states according to resources or enrollment. The D.C. Public Charter School Pre-K program is profiled separately from the Pre-Kindergarten Enhancement and Expansion Program because they are individual LEAs and have variability in their standards and requirements.

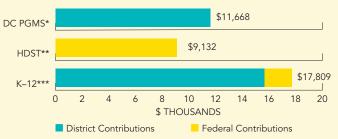
<sup>\*</sup> Percentages served prior to 2010 are not perfectly comparable to 2010 and 2011. The latter figures use data from the 2010 Census, whereas the earlier figures are based on population estimates.

# **DISTRICT OVERVIEW**

Total district program enrollment	10,432
Total district spending	.\$121,687,892
District spending per child enrolled	\$11,665
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$11,668

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#### SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



- $^\star$  Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
- \*\* Head Start per-child spending for the 2010-2011 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
- \*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

## D.C. PRE-KINDERGARTEN ENHANCEMENT AND EXPANSION PROGRAM

# **ACCESS**

Total district program enrollment
School districts that offer state program100%
Income requirementNone
Hours of operation6.5 hours/day, 5 days/weel
Operating scheduleAcademic yea
Special education enrollment
Federally funded Head Start enrollment2,785
District-funded Head Start enrollment

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## **QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

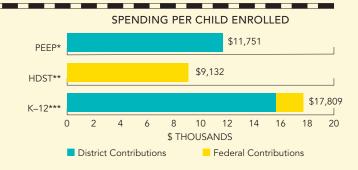
POLICY	DISTRICT PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQU MEET BENC	
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	$\checkmark$	
Teacher degreeBA (	(public and nonpublic) <sup>2</sup>	BA	$\checkmark$	
Teacher specialized trainingEC	C Certification (public); AA (nonpublic) <sup>2</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	✓	
Assistant teacherAA, 48 credits, or p degree	para-pro exam (public); CDA (nonpublic) <sup>3</sup>	CDA or equivalent		TOTAL BENCHMARKS
Teacher in-service90	hours/4 years (DCPS); 1 day/month (CBO)	At least 15 hours/year		MET
Maximum class size		20 or lower	$\checkmark$	
3-year-olds 4-year-olds				<b>&amp;</b>
Staff-child ratio	2:16	1:10 or better	<b>☑</b> *	
Screening/referraland support services		Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service		
Meals	Breakfast and lunch	At least 1/day		
MonitoringSite visits	and other monitoring	Site visits	<b>✓</b>	

#### **RESOURCES**

Total district pre-K spending	\$71,553,3105
Local match required?	No
District spending per child enrolled	\$11,7455
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$11,7515

- \* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
- \*\* Head Start per-child spending for the 2010-2011 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
- \*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.



- <sup>1</sup> Some duplication may exist in enrollment counts for the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program and federal Head Start although that amount is unknown.
- <sup>2</sup> Teachers in public settings are required to have a BA with early childhood certification. Teachers in nonpublic settings, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), are required to have at least an associate degree in child development, early childhood education, or child and family studies, and must be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program and on track to receive the degree by September 1, 2017.
- <sup>3</sup> Public school assistant teachers must have an associate degree or 48 college credit hours or have passed the paraprofessional exam, which is a basic skills test and so
- does not meet this benchmark. It is not required that the degree be in ECE. Nonpublic assistant teachers must hold at least a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and be enrolled in an associate degree program and on track to receive the degree by September 1, 2017.
- <sup>4</sup> Support services include annual parent conferences (plus one annual home visit for Head Start programs) and transition to kindergarten activities. Other support services are determined locally.
- 5 Spending is based on the per-pupil funding formula of \$11,752 per 3-year-old and \$11,401 per 4-year-old.

#### D.C. PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PRE-K

## **ACCESS**

Total district program enrollment	4,340
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	551
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	2,785
District-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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# **QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

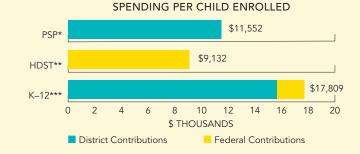
POLICY	DISTRICT PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK		QUIREMENT ICHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<b>✓</b> *	
Teacher degree	None³	BA		
Teacher specialized training	None <sup>3</sup>	Specializing in pre-K		
Assistant teacher degree	AA	CDA or equivalent		
Teacher in-service	Determined locally	At least 15 hours/year		TOTAL
Maximum class size		20 or lower		BENCHMARKS MET
Staff-child ratio 3-year-olds 4-year-olds	Determined locallyDetermined locally	1:10 or better		2
Screening/referraland support services	Health, dental	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service		
Meals	Lunch <sup>4</sup>	At least 1/day		
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	V	

#### **RESOURCES**

Total district pre-K spending	\$50,134,582
Local match required?	No
District spending per child enrolled	\$11,552
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$11,552

- \* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
- \*\* Head Start per-child spending for the 2010-2011 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
- \*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.



- D.C. Public Charter Schools that are "chartered" to offer preschool (3-year-olds) and/or pre-K (4-year-olds) must have approval by their charters from the D.C. Public Charter School Board to open a preschool or pre-K classroom.
- <sup>2</sup> Programs must offer at least 180 days or 900 hours of instruction per year. Most programs are 5 days per week, although some offer a longer school day to accommodate a half day for professional development within a 4.5 day per week school schedule.
- <sup>3</sup> PCSB can only regulate lead and assistant teacher degree requirements for schools that accept Title I funds, which must require lead teachers have a BA and assistant teachers have an AA. All but one charter school in the 2010-2011 year

received Title I funds. Each LEA can determine specific requirements/specialty of the degree, though child development, early childhood education, and/or child/family studies is preferred. Charter schools that receive additional funds from the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) must abide the OSSE policy that any lead teacher without a BA must have it by 2014 and any assistant teacher must have an AA by 2014. In light of this clarification, the Charter School program no longer meets benchmarks for lead and assistant teacher degrees.

- <sup>4</sup> Most programs also provide breakfast and snack
- 5 Charter schools receive an additional \$2,800 per pupil facilities amount. This amount is not included in the total spending figure.