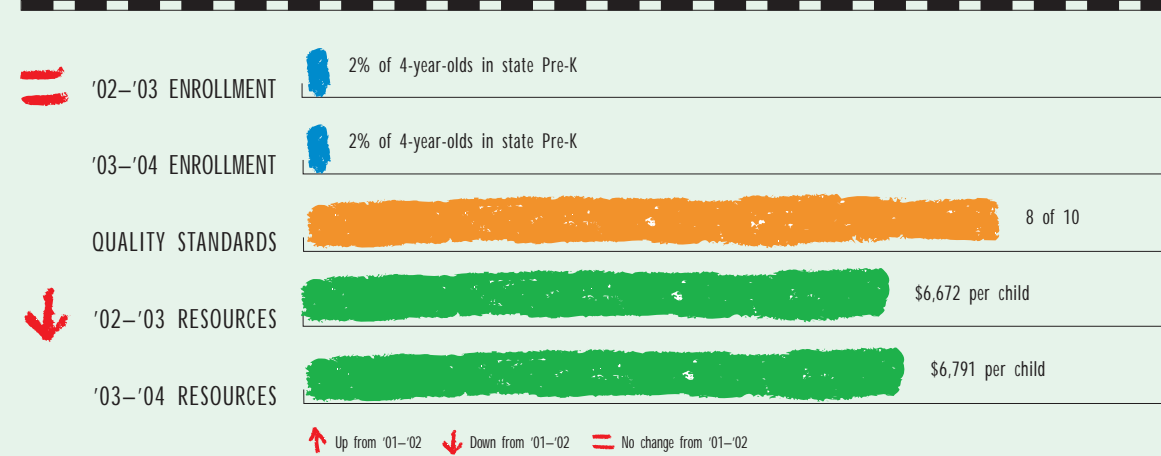


Minnesota



Minnesota supplements federal Head Start and Early Head Start spending through a state-funded Head Start model. During 2002–2003, this initiative received \$17.62 million in state funds to support 2,446 Head Start slots for 3- to 5-year-olds and Early Head Start services for 195 infants and toddlers. Funds were appropriated to 27 private, nonprofit agencies; seven Tribal Governments; and one public school district. Only federal Head Start grantees that existed prior to 1989 are eligible to receive state funds. Programs supported through this initiative are required to follow standards and provide comprehensive services as specified in the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Funding for state Head Start has declined in each of the last three fiscal years. The state Legislature originally appropriated \$18,375,000 for fiscal year 2003, but programs were only authorized to spend \$17.62 million. The reduction in available funds reduced per-child spending, and included the “unallotment” of innovative grants that had already been awarded on a competitive basis. Further, budget cuts in fiscal years 2004 and 2005 reduced state Head Start funding by a total of \$3.2 million, resulting in fewer available slots. The statute passed for 2004 eliminated innovative grants as well as set-aside grants that had supported services for children under 3 years of age. Funding in fiscal year 2004 was \$16,475,000, providing 2,026 slots designated for 3- and 4-year olds.

Though not the focus of data in this profile, Minnesota's School Readiness Program is a separate initiative supporting more than 22 types of services for preschool-age children and their families. In addition to preschool education, other services include parent education through the Early Childhood Family Education program, home visits, and supplementary services for children with special needs. In 2002–2003, 99 percent of Minnesota's school districts offered services funded by the School Readiness Program. Individual school districts determine how they will use their funds and what types of services will be offered. If School Readiness funds are used in support of prekindergarten, programs are expected to follow standards specified at the state level, including maximum class sizes of 20, staff-child ratios of 1:10 or better, and several family support services. Children are prioritized for services based on needs identified through a comprehensive Early Childhood Health and Development Screening.

In this report, the School Readiness Program is viewed as a funding stream supporting a variety of locally selected services for preschoolers rather than as a separate, statewide preschool education initiative. During 2002–2003, a total of \$9,543,469 in state funds was used to support all components of the School Readiness Program. The state is not able to provide an unduplicated count of the number of children attending center-based preschool education programs or specific information about the amount of School Readiness funds used for such programs.

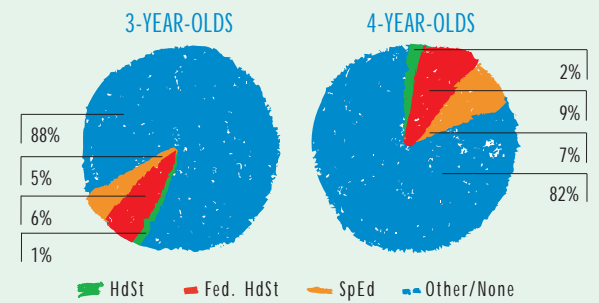
Though funding for early childhood programs has declined, Minnesota has also seen some recent positive developments, including the alignment of its Early Learning Standards (Early Childhood Indicators of Progress) with Minnesota Kindergarten Standards and Head Start Outcomes.



ACCESS

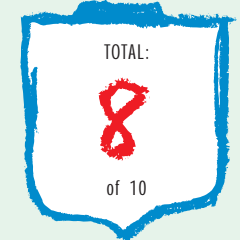
Total state program enrollment - - - - - 2,641¹
 School districts that offer state program - - - - - [see footnotes]²
 Income req. - - - 90% of children must be at or below 100% FPL
 Hours of operation - - - - - Determined locally³
 Operating schedule - - - - - Determined locally³
 Special education enrollment - - - - - 7,294
 Federally funded Head Start enrollment - - - - - 10,015
 State-funded Head Start enrollment - - - - - 2,206

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

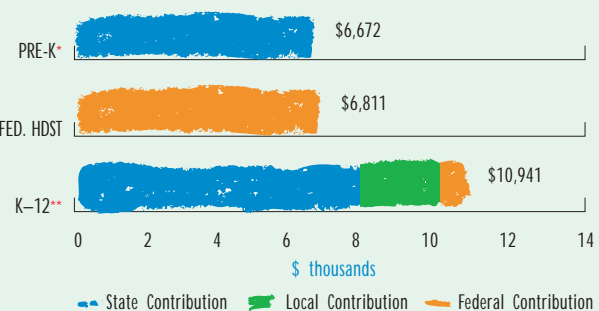
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards - - - - -	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement - - - - -	CDA	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training req. - - - - -	Meets CDA requirements	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement - - - - -	Meets child care regs. ⁵	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement - - 1.5% or 2% of total work hours ⁶		At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds - - - - -	17		
4-year-olds - - - - -	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds - - - - -	2:17		
4-year-olds - - - - -	1:10		
Screening/referral requirements - Vision, hearing, health and dental		Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Required support services - - - - - 2 home visits and support services ⁷		At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement - - - - - Lunch and/or breakfast ⁸		At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending - - - - - \$17,620,000⁹
 Local match required? - - - - - No
 State spending per child enrolled - - - - - \$6,672
 State Head Start spending - - - - - \$17,620,000¹⁰
 State spending per 3-year-old - - - - - \$89
 State spending per 4-year-old - - - - - \$138

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
² K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

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

³ This enrollment total includes 195 children under age 3 and 240 5-year-olds.
⁴ In 2002–2003, state Head Start funding went to one school district, seven Tribal Governments; and 27 private, nonprofit agencies, each serving one or more counties. State Head Start grantees include all federally designated Head Start programs in Minnesota as of 1989.
⁵ Minimum operating hours must be consistent with the requirements of the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards. Programs must operate at least 3.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, and 32 weeks per year.
⁶ Minnesota's School Readiness Program (MSRP) supports a range of services, including part-day prekindergarten programs as well as services such as summer programs, story hours, transportation assistance, and other activities. The state did not provide unduplicated counts of children by type of service received, or information regarding the amounts of MSRP funds devoted to specific services. As a result, children who received any type of service as part of the School Readiness Program are included in the Other/None category on the Access pie graph.
⁷ Assistant teachers in settings subject to child care regulations must work under the supervision of a teacher, be at least 18 years old, and meet one of nine combined credential, educational, and experience requirements, such as a high school diploma, 12 quarter credits in early childhood or a related field, and 2,080 hours of experience.
⁸ Non-degreed staff are required to complete 2% of their total working hours for in-service training (full-time employment requires 40 hours of in-service) and degreed staff are required to complete 1.5% of total working hours for in-service.
⁹ Support services include education services or job training for parents, 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. Programs are required to provide all activities specified in the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards.
¹⁰ Part-day programs are required to provide children with at least one-third of their daily nutritional needs, as determined by the USDA. Full-day programs must provide one-half to two-thirds of daily nutritional needs, depending on length of the program day.
¹¹ This includes \$1 million in state Head Start funds that was set aside in 2002–2003 to serve children birth to age 3. The set-aside was eliminated for fiscal year 2004 so that grantees now serve children birth to age 5 with state Head Start funds.
¹² All spending through this initiative is directed toward Head Start programs.