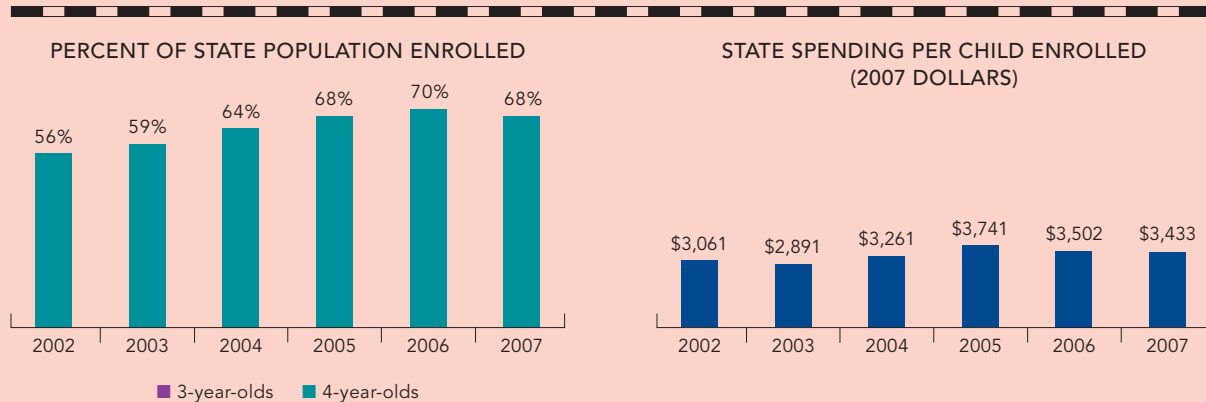


# Oklahoma



The Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program got its start in 1980 when Oklahoma created a pilot preschool program with the goal of eventually serving all the state’s 4-year-olds. In 1990, the pilot program received statewide funding. At the same time, the state limited preschool funding to 4-year-olds eligible for Head Start, although districts could continue serving additional 4-year-olds using local funds. In 1998, Oklahoma became the second state in the U.S. to offer free, voluntary access to prekindergarten for all of its 4-year-old children. Although school districts are not required to offer the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program, 97 percent of districts choose to do so. The number of children participating in the program has grown over the years, and Oklahoma ranked first in the nation for the percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled during the 2003-2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006 school years.

State funding for the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program is provided directly to public school districts through the state school finance formula. School districts that offer the program are reimbursed at the district’s per-pupil rate, but specific funding amounts are based on whether a district uses a full- or half-day model. Public schools receiving prekindergarten funds may coordinate with other providers, including Head Start programs and other community-based programs, to serve children in collaboration settings. Even in collaboration programs, all students are considered public school enrollees. Children in collaboration programs receive the same services as children served on-site at public schools and are matched with a site elementary school. More than 4,000 children were served in collaboration programs during the 2006-2007 school year.

During the 2006-2007 school year, Oklahoma established an additional initiative known as the Pilot Early Childhood Program, available to children from birth through age 3. Although a limited number of 3-year-olds were served in the first year, this is likely to change as the program expands. The pilot program is supported through a blend of public and private funds. Oklahoma also supplements Head Start through a separate initiative, through which existing federal Head Start grantees receive funds to support additional enrollment, expanded services, and extended hours. In Fiscal Year 2007, Head Start programs received \$2,905,602 in state funds.

Other recent developments with the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program involve new partnerships between public schools and child care facilities receiving the highest rating in the state’s quality rating system for child care (three stars). Three-star facilities may now purchase learning materials for the state’s Four-Year-Old Program tax-free through these partnerships. It is anticipated that the availability of additional incentives will encourage more three-star facilities to enter into these partnerships in the future.

ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCES RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
1	None Served	21*	11

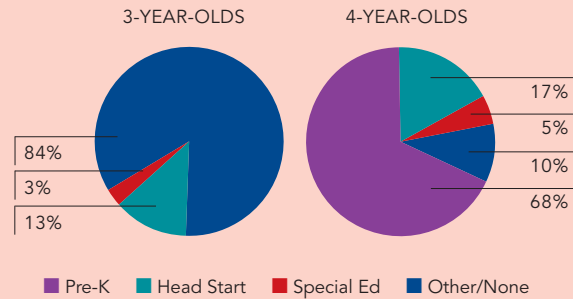
\* In previous Yearbooks, only state spending was ranked.

# OKLAHOMA EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUR-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment.....	34,375
School districts that offer state program.....	97%
Income requirement .....	None
Hours of operation .....	2.5 hours/day (part-day) or 6 hours/day (full-day); 5 days/week <sup>1</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment .....	3,778
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.....	15,030
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	0 <sup>2</sup>

## 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?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive .....	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA/BS .....	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	EC certification for Birth-3 .....	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	See footnotes <sup>3</sup> .....	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	15 clock hours .....	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....	.....	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	.....NA		
4-year-olds .....	.....20		
Staff-child ratio .....	.....	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	.....NA		
4-year-olds .....	.....1:10		
Screening/ referral and support services .....	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services <sup>4</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	At least 1 meal <sup>5</sup> .....	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring .....	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

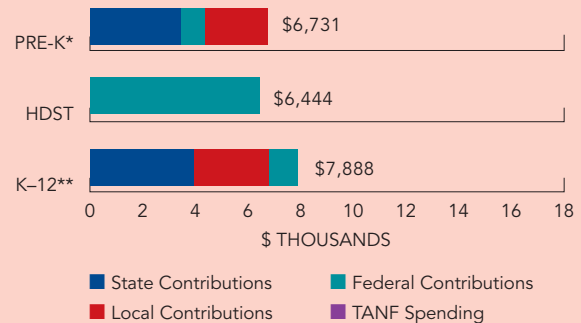
**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

**9**

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$118,003,070 <sup>6</sup>
Local match required?.....	No
State Head Start spending .....	\$2,905,602
State spending per child enrolled.....	\$3,433
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$6,731

## 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 '06-'07 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Providers may choose from either of two program options: a half-day program with 2.5 instructional hours daily, a full-day program with 6 instructional hours daily, or a combination of both options. All operate 5 days per week.

<sup>2</sup> State Head Start funds are primarily used to provide extended programs and intervention services and to improve quality of the federal Head Start program. A few additional slots may have been created using the state supplements, but the number is unknown.

<sup>3</sup> Assistant teachers must meet federal requirements to be highly qualified under NCLB. They must have an AA, or 48 credit hours of college coursework, or pass one of two state-approved tests that do not have specific educational requirements. One test is the Oklahoma General Education Test (an exam required for pre-K-12 public school teachers) and the other is a national test for para-professional status.

<sup>4</sup> Support services include two parent conferences or home visits annually, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. Programs must also offer or make referrals for other services including mental health services (counselors) and all other typical public school program services (such as early intervention or literacy coaches).

<sup>5</sup> At least one meal is provided through the Federal Child Nutrition Program, but specific meals depend on the length of the program day. This federal program does not provide snacks for students, so availability of snacks is determined locally.

<sup>6</sup> This is an estimate of fiscal year 2007 spending, reflecting actual spending for fiscal year 2006. Fiscal year 2007 data were not yet available at press time.