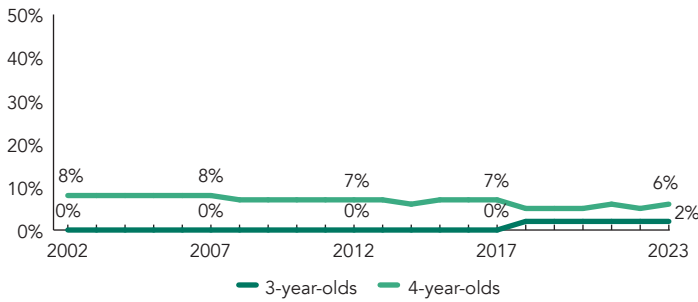
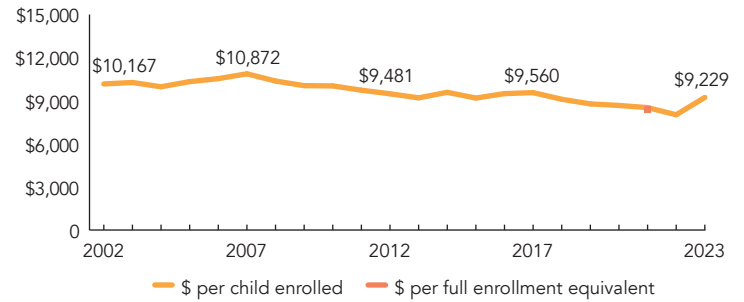


Delaware

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2023 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

During the 2022-2023 school year, Delaware preschool enrolled 954 children, an increase of 136 from the prior year. State spending totaled \$8,804,300, up \$2,242,819 (34%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$9,229 in 2022-2023, up \$1,207 from 2021-2022, adjusted for inflation. Delaware met 9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

In December 2022, the Delaware Department of Education was awarded a federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) renewal grant for \$8 million. Funds are planned to be used for expanding state-funded preschool seats to include infant and toddlers, workforce supports for professionals, pilot changes to the Office for Child Care Licensing monitoring and the state's Quality Improvement System's verification processes and piloting of the Family Connects Home Visiting Model.

A revised Quality Improvement System was launched July of 2023 with state funded programs receiving targeted support in the form of training, coaching, and technical assistance. In winter 2023, the ECAP program went out to Request for Proposal (RFP). Programs needed to plan for potential changes to their state contract and programming during the 2022-2023 school year, in anticipation of program changes outlined in the RFP.

BACKGROUND

The Delaware Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) began in 1994, providing comprehensive early learning services for 4-year-olds eligible for the federal Head Start program. Eligibility expanded to 3-year-olds in 2017-2018.

Modeled after the federal Head Start program, ECAP requires participating programs to follow required federal Head Start Program Performance Standards. Per these standards, ten percent of enrollment slots are reserved for children with disabilities; the majority of participating children must live in families with incomes at or below 100% FPL. Since the reauthorization of the federal Head Start program in 2007, up to 35% of enrolled children may live in households up to 130% FPL.

ECAP awards are available to private and public child care programs, such as for-profit child care, Head Start agencies, public schools, community-based organizations, and faith-based centers through an RFP process. Contracts for funded ECAP seats are determined based on Community Needs Assessment Data.

In 2012, Delaware began requiring all ECAP programs to participate in Delaware Stars, the state quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for early childhood programs. All ECAP programs are required to maintain at least a Star 4 out of 5 rating.

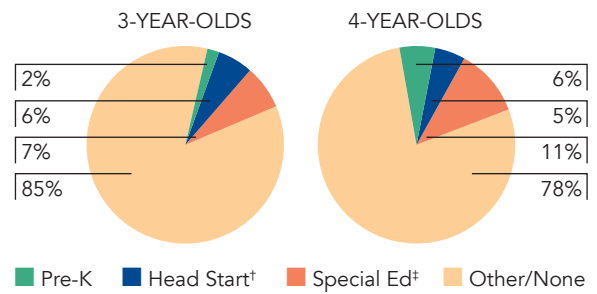
| ACCESS RANKINGS | | RESOURCE RANKINGS | | TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 4-YEAR-OLDS | 3-YEAR-OLDS | STATE SPENDING | ALL REPORTED SPENDING | |
| 41 | 25 | 10 | 20 | 9* |

DELAWARE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ACCESS

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Total state pre-K enrollment | 954 |
| School districts that offer state program | 100% (counties) |
| Income requirement | 100% FPL |
| Minimum hours of operation | 3.5 hours/day; 5 days/week |
| Operating schedule | 160 days/year |
| Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 | 2,266 |
| Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 | 1,142 |
| State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 | 0 |

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
‡ Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

| POLICY | DE PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK? |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher degree | BA (public); At least AA with 50% BA (nonpublic) | BA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher specialized training | ECE, CD, ECE SpEd | Specializing in pre-K | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Assistant teacher degree | Working towards CDA or equivalent | CDA or equivalent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff professional development | 90 hours/5 years (public teachers); 18 hours/year (nonpublic teachers & assistants); 15 hours/year (public assistants); PD plans; Coaching | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maximum class size | 17 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff-child ratio | 2:17 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, health & more | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * |

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

* Indicates that while policy meets the benchmark, it is not being implemented fully.

9*

RESOURCES

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total state pre-K spending | \$8,804,300 |
| Local match required? | No |
| State Head Start spending | \$0 |
| State spending per child enrolled | \$9,229 |
| All reported spending per child enrolled* | \$9,229 |

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

† Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.

‡ K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

