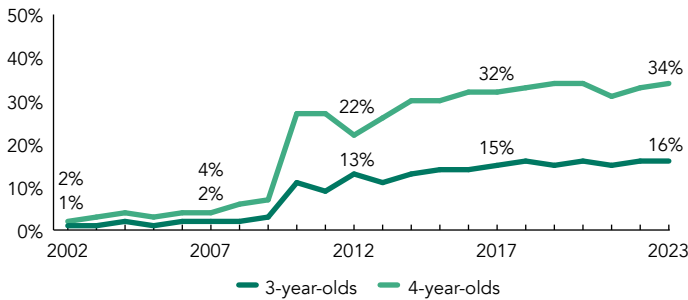
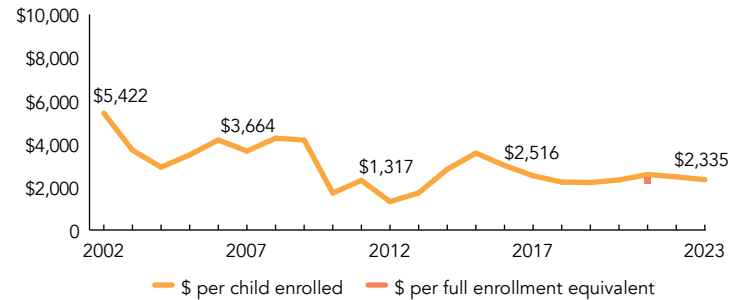


# Nebraska

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2023 DOLLARS)



## OVERVIEW

During the 2022-2023 school year, Nebraska preschool enrolled 13,197 children, a decrease of 163 from the prior year. State spending totaled \$30,819,968, down \$2,154,827 (6.5%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$2,335 in 2022-2023, down \$133 from 2021-2022, adjusted for inflation. Nebraska met 7 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

## WHAT'S NEW

During the 2022-2023 school year, the state implemented District Support Plans to provide support across the state more equitably based on the needs of the district. Supports include access to Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) resources and technical assistance.

In May 2022, NDE authorized the use of ESSER funds to be utilized within up to six Educational Service Units to support PreK–2nd grade teachers with dedicated Professional Development Specialists for two years. The intent of these specialists is to provide educators with someone at a regional level with PreK–2nd grade dedicated support in the areas of appropriate teaching practice, curricular support, formative/observational assessment, Pyramid/PBIS implementation, and/or transitions, based on the needs of the specific regions.

Additionally, in December 2022, Nebraska was awarded a federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B–5) one year planning grant for \$4 million. For more information about Nebraska’s grant, see [the FAQ](#).

## BACKGROUND

The Nebraska Early Childhood Education Program began as a pilot program in 1992 and expanded in 2001, providing preschool education for children ages three to five. Direct financial support is available on a competitive basis for public schools and education service units that partner with child care centers, Head Start agencies and/or human services agencies. Grantees are required to match 100% of the funding with local and/or federal sources.

At least 70% of the children in the program must have at least one of the following risk factors: disability or developmental delay, living in a home in which English is not the primary language, eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch (185% FPL), having teen parents or parents who have not completed high school, or having been born prematurely or with a low birth weight. The program seeks to serve children of diverse social and economic characteristics.

Most programs operate 3.5 to 4 hours per day, four or five days per week and must operate for a minimum of 12 hours per week during the school year. All teachers in the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Program are required to have at least a bachelor’s degree and training in early childhood education. The program monitors child, program, and family outcomes annually.

While the Early Childhood Education Grant Program has expanded, many districts and education service units fund their early childhood programs without the use of grants yet follow the same regulations as the grant program. Those programs are also included in this report.

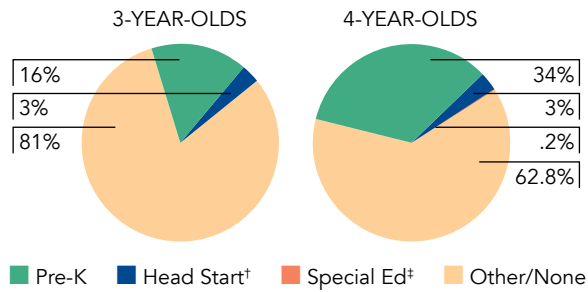
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
20	7	44	9	7

# NEBRASKA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	13,197
School districts that offer state program.....	92%
Income requirement.....	185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation.....	12 hours/week
Operating schedule.....	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	4,026
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	3,294
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

## PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.  
 † Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	NE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	<b>BA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, ECE SpEd	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	K-6 Endorsement, 6 credits in CD or ECE, or previous experience	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching for teachers participating in the Pyramid model	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Determined locally	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	<b>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

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## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending.....	\$30,819,968
Local match required?.....	Yes
State Head Start spending.....	\$0
State spending per child enrolled.....	\$2,335
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$11,634

\* 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

