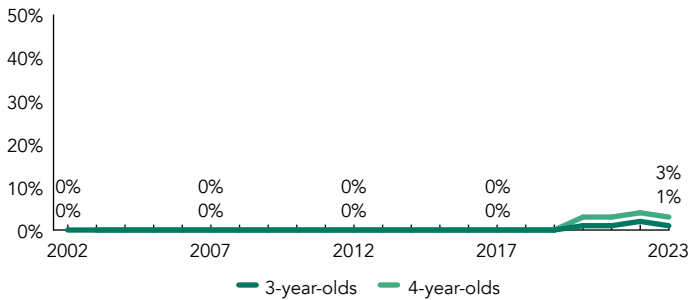
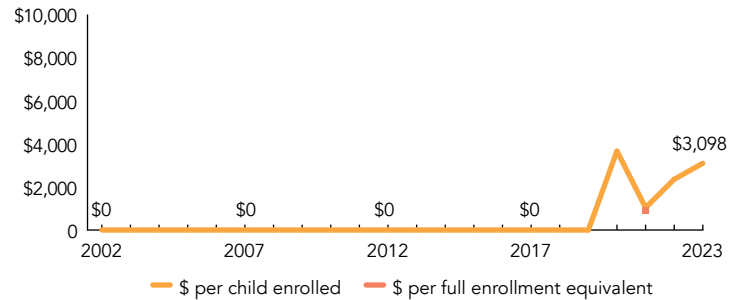


Utah

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2023 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

During the 2022-2023 school year, Utah preschool enrolled 1,987 children, a decrease of 826 from the prior year. State spending totaled \$6,154,997, down \$467,663 (7%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$3,098 in 2022-2023, up \$743 from 2021-2022, adjusted for inflation. Utah met 5 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

The number of children served by the School Readiness Grant program in 2022-2023 decreased because of increased costs to provide high-quality preschool services and some previous grantees no longer participating in the grant program.

At the end of summer 2022, COVID-19 relief funding was used to provide a one-time \$2,000 retention bonus to early educators.

In 2022-2023, Utah implemented a \$4.8 million Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) renewal grant. The funding was used to update Utah's statewide early childhood needs assessment, establish and extend technology to increase parent and family engagement in early childhood programs, and increase training and coaching for early educators.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the High-Quality School Readiness Expansion (HQSR-E) grant program was established to expand access to high-quality school readiness programs for eligible children. The HQSR-E grant program provided funding to LEAs and private providers with existing, high-quality early education programs to serve economically disadvantaged 4-year-old children. The HQSR-E program ended in June 2019 and was replaced by the Expanded Student Access to High Quality School Readiness (ESA) grant program.

With the passing of SB 166 in 2019, the School Readiness Board governs both the Becoming High-Quality (BHQ) and ESA grant programs for both public and private providers. The BHQ program provides funding to help existing preschool programs increase program quality to later qualify for ESA grant funding. The ESA program allows high-quality preschool programs to expand access and provide seats to eligible students. An eligible student is one who is economically disadvantaged and whose parent or guardian reports they also have experienced at least one risk factor (e.g., mother is 18 or younger, parents with a low reading ability, exposure to substance abuse) or a student that is an English Learner.

SB166 also codified Utah's UPSTART Program, which provides a home-based, technology-delivered kindergarten readiness program to children throughout the state and prioritizes children from low-income families. The program includes an annual independent evaluation contracted by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE).

In May 2020, the new Utah Core Standards: Early Learning (Ages 3-5) were approved by the USBE. USBE staff collaborated with other agencies and early childhood professionals to provide professional learning during the 2020-2021 school year to encourage and assist with the implementation of the new standards starting in the 2021-2022 school year.

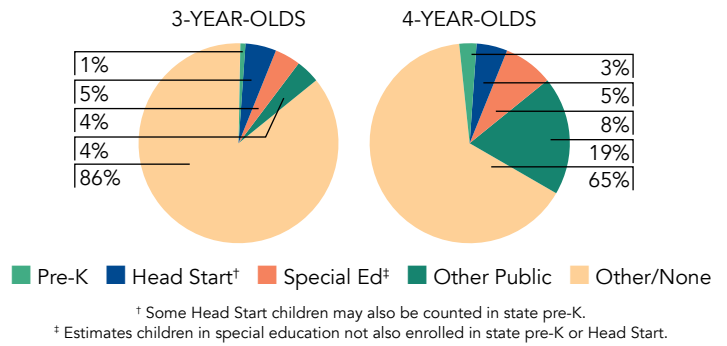
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
45	28	43	36	5

EXPANDED STUDENT ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS (ESA)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	1,987
School districts that offer state program	41% (counties)
Income requirement	185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	Determined locally
Operating schedule	Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	6,793
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	4,590
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	UT PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned with child assessments, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	CDA	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	CDA	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year (teachers only); Coaching (teachers only)	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	None	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input 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.

5

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$6,154,997
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,098
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,817

* 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

