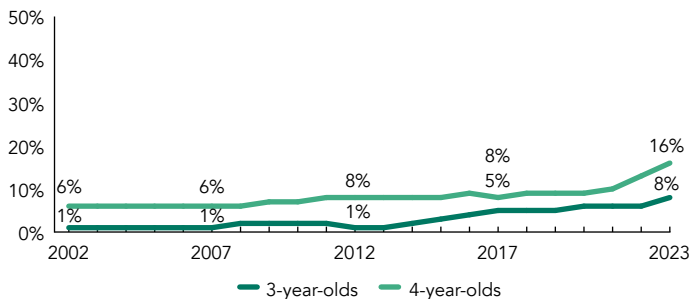
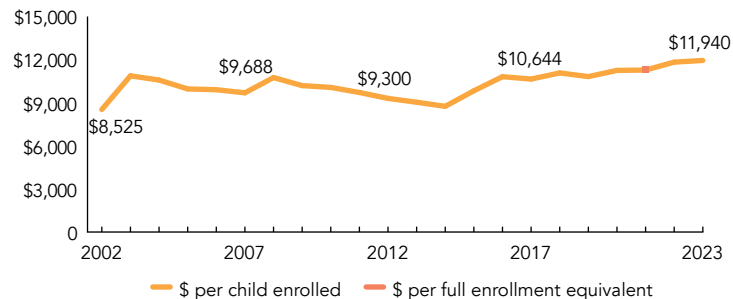


# Washington

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2023 DOLLARS)



## OVERVIEW

During the 2022-2023 school year Washington’s Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) enrolled 15,808 children in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), an increase of 801 children from the prior year. State spending for ECEAP totaled \$177,228,389 with an additional \$4,605,000 in federal recovery funding to support the program, up \$8,614,391 (5%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child on ECEAP equaled \$11,503 (including recovery dollars) in 2022-2023, down \$40 from 2021-2022, adjusted for inflation. Washington ECEAP met 9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

Washington’s Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also served 5,244 children in a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program during the 2022-2023 school year, up 2,117 children from the prior year. State spending for TK was \$69,532,084, an increase of \$28,345,101 (69%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child on TK was \$13,259, up \$88 from 2021-2022, adjusted for inflation. TK met 6 out of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

## WHAT’S NEW

ECEAP added 800 more slots during the 2022-2023 school year and another 500 in 2023-2024 as well as 1,000 part- to full-day conversions. In 2022-2023, a 1.6% slot rate increase also took effect. In 2023-2024 contractors received additional increases: 18% for school-day slots, 9% for working-day slots, and 7% for part-day slots. Summer ECEAP was funded by the state legislature for the first time and was provided by 21 ECEAP contractors to 1,948 students in the summer of 2022. The state also helped to fund 178 Early ECEAP slots for children birth to age three after the PDG B-5 grant ended in December 2022. The legislature also funded \$7 million for the Tribal Early Learning Fund to provide critical, culturally sensitive services.

Income eligibility was expanded and moved to State Median Income (SMI) instead of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2021-2022. Income eligibility categories will increase again in 2030-2031. The state QRIS implemented a revised quality recognition and improvement system based on provider feedback that moves to a virtual data collection model that allows reviewers the opportunity to see every teaching environment and engage in coaching with teachers.

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) are supporting TK programs with TA on collaborating with community-based partners (including ECEAP), Head Start, child care, family child care, and licensed tribally-led early learning programs. DCYF and OSPI jointly identified strategies to improve alignment of high quality preschool across the two agencies and increase equitable access to preschool.

## BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Washington Department of Early Learning merged into the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), which oversees early learning programs along with child welfare and juvenile rehabilitation. One of the five strategic priorities for DCYF is to create a high-quality integrated birth to eight system. This includes expanding access to infant/toddler supports, expanding access to affordable, high-quality care, creating a responsive and inclusive integrated pre-K system, and expanding supports to the early learning workforce. The state ECEAP, created in 1985, is a large part of the state’s strategy to accomplish this goal. In recent years, both funding and enrollment for ECEAP have been growing. ECEAP funding comes from the state general fund, the Education Legacy Trust Account funded by estate taxes, and the “opportunity pathways account” financed by lottery proceeds. In 2010, the state Legislature established the ECEAP as a statutory entitlement for all eligible children, not funded by Head Start, by the 2018-2019 school year — a deadline extended to 2026-2027. ECEAP focuses on the whole child and provides comprehensive nutrition, health, education and family support services to Washington’s most at-risk young children. To be eligible for ECEAP currently, children must be 3- or 4-years-old and live in households with an income at or below 36% SMI for non-tribal children or 100% SMI for tribal children, eligible for special education services, experiencing homelessness, or previously participated in an approved birth to three early learning program. Up to 10% of ECEAP enrollment may include children whose families do not meet the poverty requirement but experience other risk factors that could jeopardize learning, development, or school success.

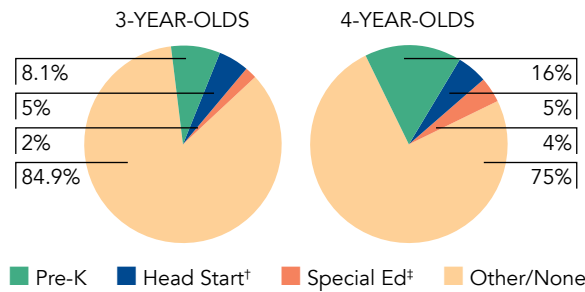
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# WASHINGTON STATE OVERVIEW

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	21,052
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	9,665
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	9,361
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

## PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

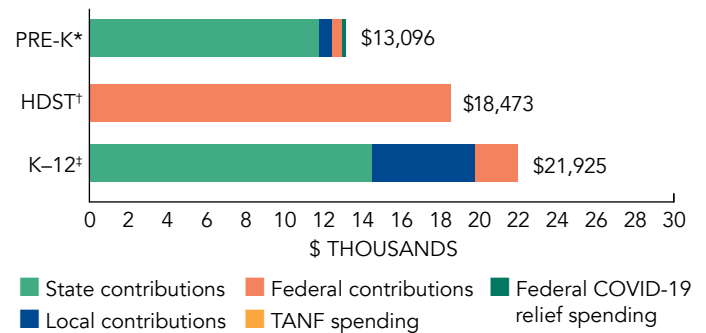


† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.  
 ‡ Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$251,365,473
State Head Start spending .....	\$0
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$11,940
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$13,096

## SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



\* 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.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
33	17

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
5	6

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
ECEAP	TK
9	6

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is the primary agency charged with overseeing public K–12 education in Washington state. Working with the state’s 295 public school districts and six state-tribal education compact schools, OSPI allocates funding and provides tools, resources, and technical assistance so every student in Washington is provided a high-quality public education. The goal of Washington’s K–12 education system is to prepare every student for postsecondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement.

OSPI’s Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a kindergarten program for children aged 5 who have missed the cutoff for kindergarten or are turning 5 before the following school year and do not have access to high-quality early learning experiences prior to kindergarten. Districts may offer TK programs, but they are not required to do so. The requirements for TK are the same as those for regular kindergarten established by RCW 28A.150.315. While school districts in Washington have always had the ability to enroll children into kindergarten early, TK has gained momentum in recent years, as a strategy for closing opportunity gaps.

Washington’s overall support for state-funded preschool is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses on ECEAP and the fourth page on TK.

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECEAP)

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ..... 15,808

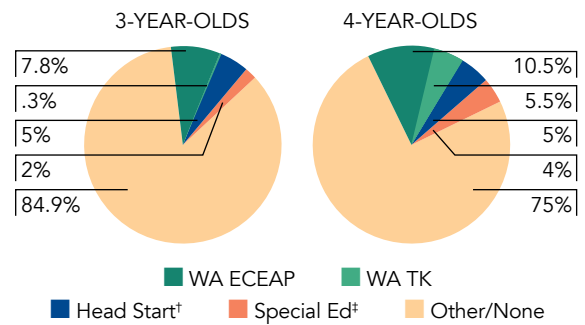
School districts that offer state program ..... 92% (counties)

Income requirement ..... 36% SMI (non-tribal children);  
100% SMI (tribal children)

Minimum hours of operation ..... 3 hours/day

Operating schedule ..... School year (part- & school day);  
Full calendar year (working-day)

## 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	WA ECEAP 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	AA	<b>BA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	20 hours/year (teachers); 15 hours/year (assistants); PD plans; Coaching	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input checked="" 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	Vision, hearing, health & more	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input checked="" 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 ..... \$181,833,389

Local match required? ..... No

State spending per child enrolled ..... \$11,503

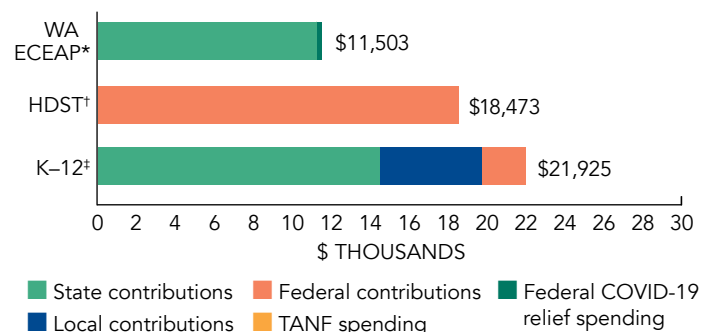
All reported spending per child enrolled\* ..... \$11,503

\* 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

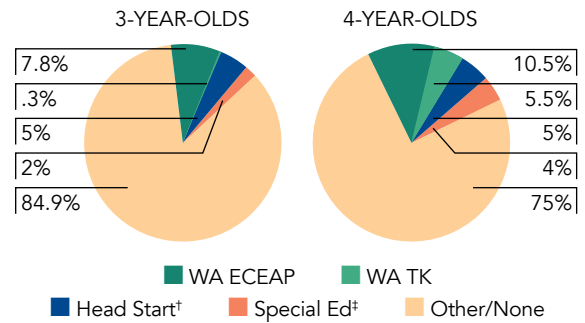


## TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (TK)

### ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	5,244
School districts that offer state program .....	50%
Income requirement .....	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .....	27.75 hours/week; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	School or academic year

### 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	WA TK 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, Elem. Ed., ECE SpEd, SpEd	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	100 hours/5 years (teachers); 3 days/year (assistants); PD plans; Coaching	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input checked="" 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 .....	\$69,532,084
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$13,259
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$17,900

\* 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

