



The State of Preschool 2024

STATE PRESCHOOL YEARBOOK

The National Institute for Early Education Research



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Executive Summary

The 22nd *State of Preschool* finds that state initiatives propelled early childhood education (ECE) in the United States to historic highs during the 2023-2024 school year. Nationally, preschool recovered from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, progress has been highly uneven from state to state. While many states advanced by enrolling more children in quality preschool, others lagged, funding no preschool or only low quality programs. As federal cutbacks in education and elsewhere are being implemented, it is notable that federal COVID-19 recovery funding played a crucial role in sustaining and advancing preschool, and other federal funds underpin state programs and decrease inequality among the states in access to quality preschool education.

Changes in the national policy environment increase the importance of state leadership in pre-K. Federal leadership in pre-K has receded for some time, and this trend will continue in the foreseeable future. There is an additional risk that funding for federal ECE programs will be cut, reducing pre-K access for children in low-income families. This report provides state leaders with the information they need to fully understand the importance of federal ECE funding for their states. Of course, state leaders also are aware that any cuts in federal funding to states (e.g., Medicaid) have the potential to impact their budgets. In addition, states should be wary of negative impacts from a potential economic downturn. As can be seen in Figure 1, the Great Recession of 2008 led to lower pre-K funding for more than half a decade, though pre-K funded through K-12 formulas withstood the recession better than other pre-K programs. In these uncertain times, states can take control of their own destinies with policies that preserve and even increase smart investments in pre-K that pay-off far into the future. States can learn much about how to do this from each other, especially from the bi-partisan mix of very different states we identify as leaders in pre-K (see pullout section).

FIGURE 1: PRESCHOOL SPENDING REACHED ANOTHER ALL-TIME HIGH BUT FISCAL UNCERTAINTY MAY REVERSE THIS TREND (2024 DOLLARS)

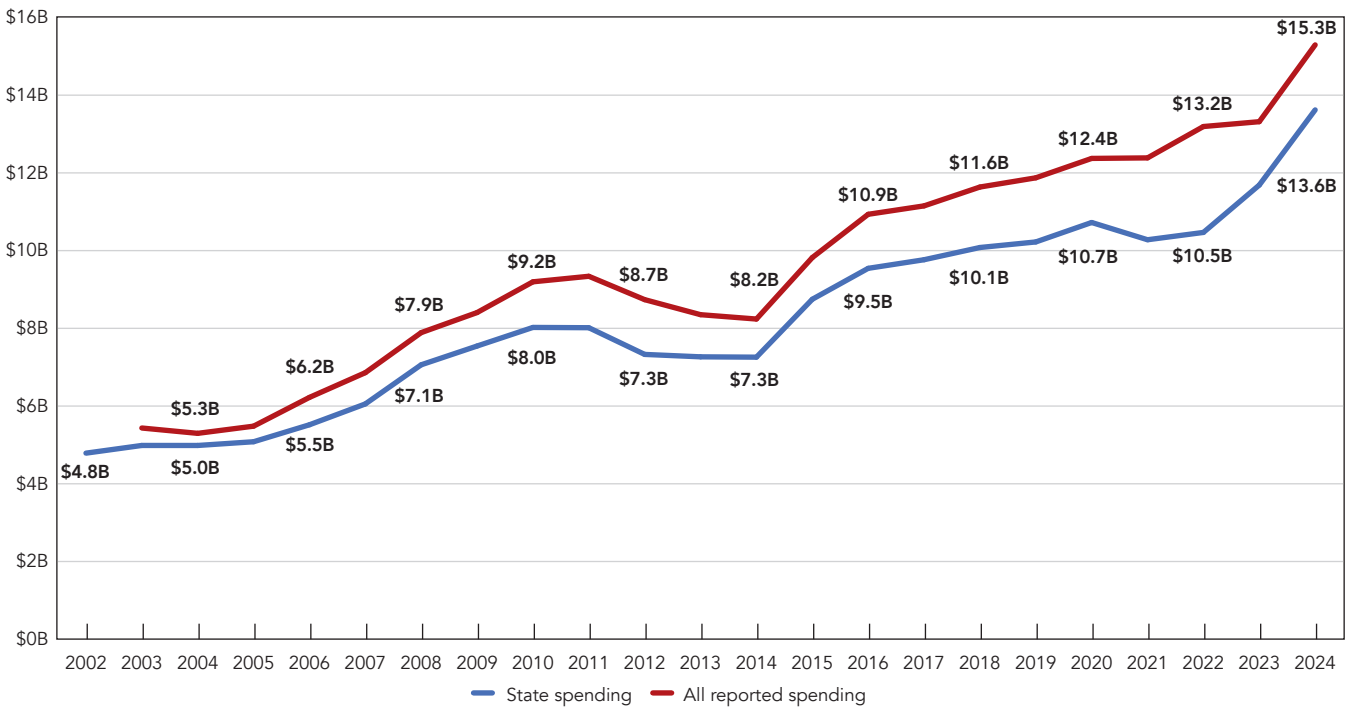
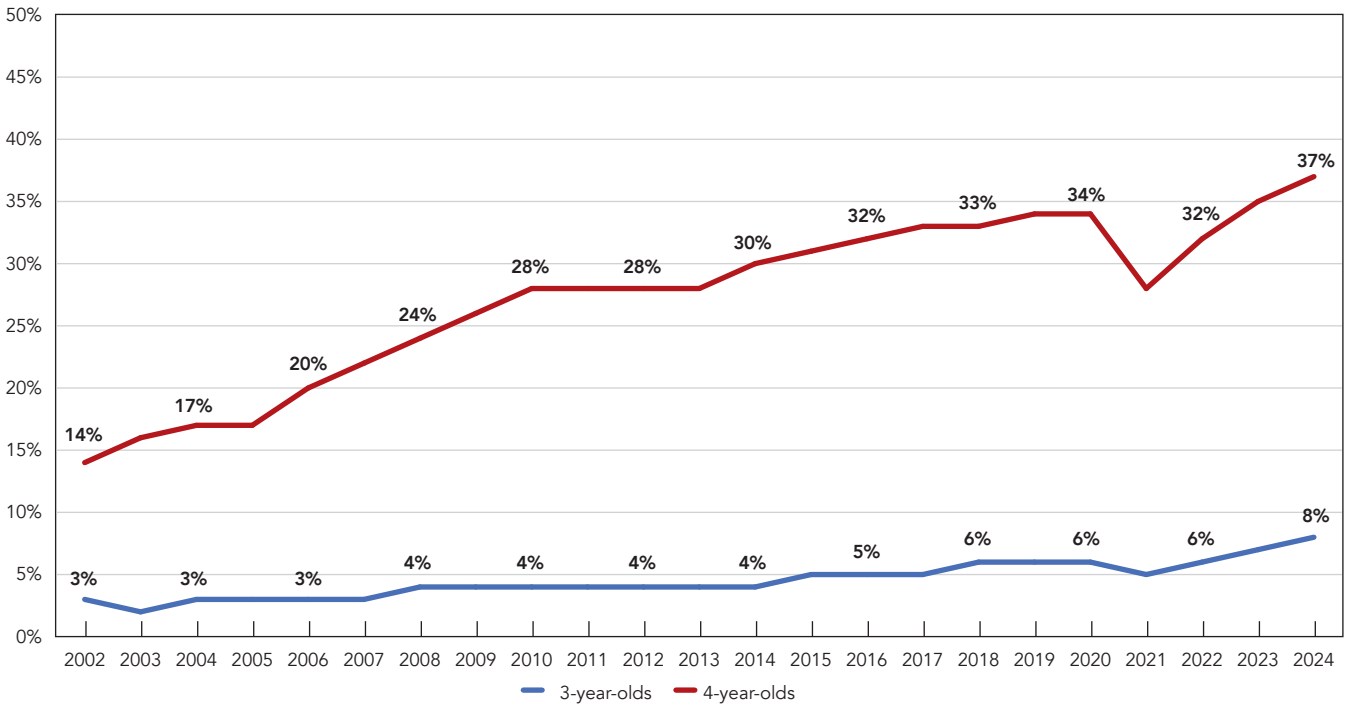


FIGURE 2: PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN STATE-FUNDED PRESCHOOL



HISTORIC PROGRESS

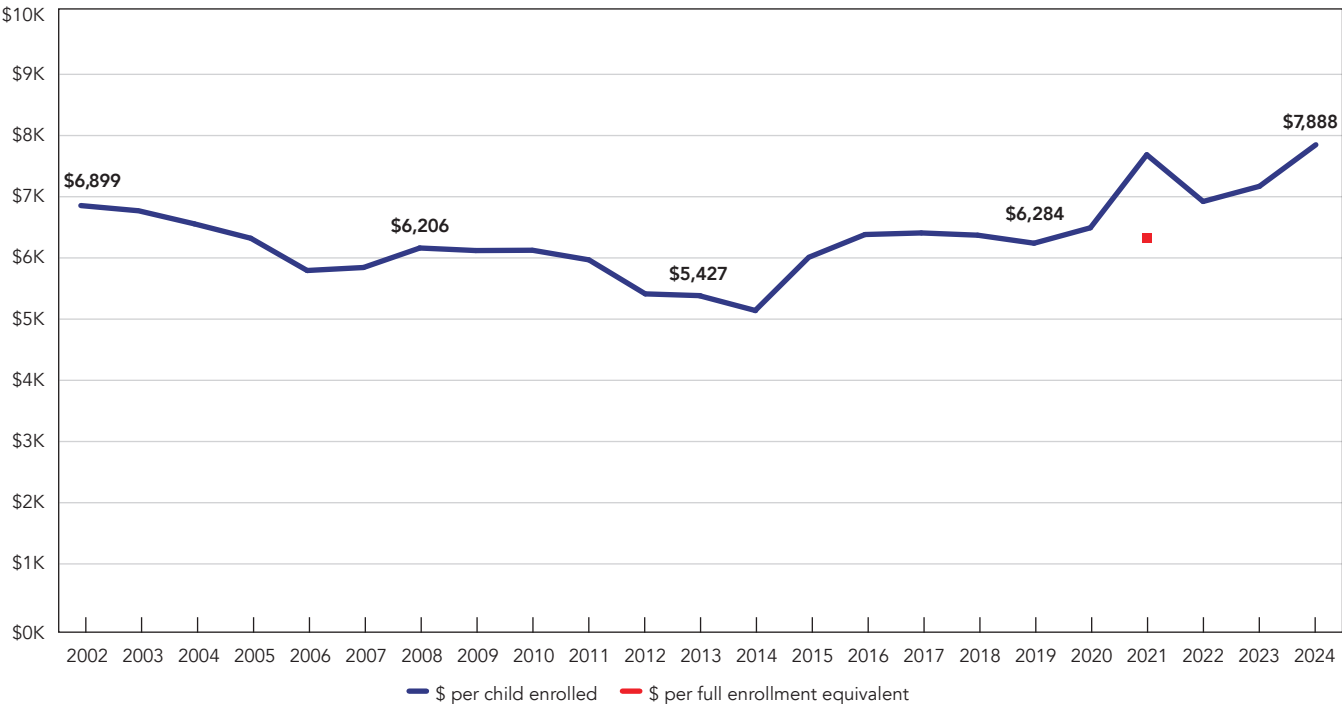
The 2023-2024 school year set new records for state-funded preschool enrollment and funding. Enrollment reached 1,751,109 children, an increase of 111,243 children, up 7% from the prior year. Enrollment reached all-time highs in total children and in the number and percentage of both 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled (See Figure 2). The total number of children enrolled in preschool increased in most states, but states working towards universal pre-K accounted for most of the nation’s progress (See Tables 3A & 3B). Enrollment increased by more than 30,000 children in two states: California and Colorado, both of which have ambitious plans for universal preschool. These two states account for 60% of the national increase in enrollment. Ten states increased enrollment by more than 20%: Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Ohio.

Most state pre-K programs continue to primarily or only serve 4-year-olds despite some increases in enrollment at age 3. Enrollment reached 8% of 3-year-olds and 37% of 4-year-olds, nationally.

Funding for state-funded preschool also reached record highs in the 2023-2024 school year. States spent more than \$13.6 billion (including \$257 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding) on preschool, an inflation-adjusted increase of almost \$2 billion (17%). State spending on preschool increased in all except five states with a preschool program. Six states increased state spending on preschool, adjusted for inflation, by more than \$100 million over the prior year: California, Colorado, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Texas. All reported funding (state, local, and federal) supporting state preschool topped \$15.3 billion, another all-time high.

Like last year, preschool spending increased by a larger percentage than enrollment. State spending per child enrolled reached \$7,888, another record high and an inflation-adjusted increase of \$675 from the prior year (See Figure 3). State spending per child increased in all but eight states with a preschool program. Five states increased spending per child by more than \$2,500, adjusted for inflation: Arizona, Delaware, Maryland, New Mexico, and Oregon. This group includes states with new preschool initiatives and states that raised spending per child to support program quality. Including state, local, and federal sources, spending per child was \$8,857, an inflation-adjusted increase of \$636, reflecting a strong increase in state funding during a time of declining federal recovery dollars.

FIGURE 3: AVERAGE STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2024 DOLLARS)



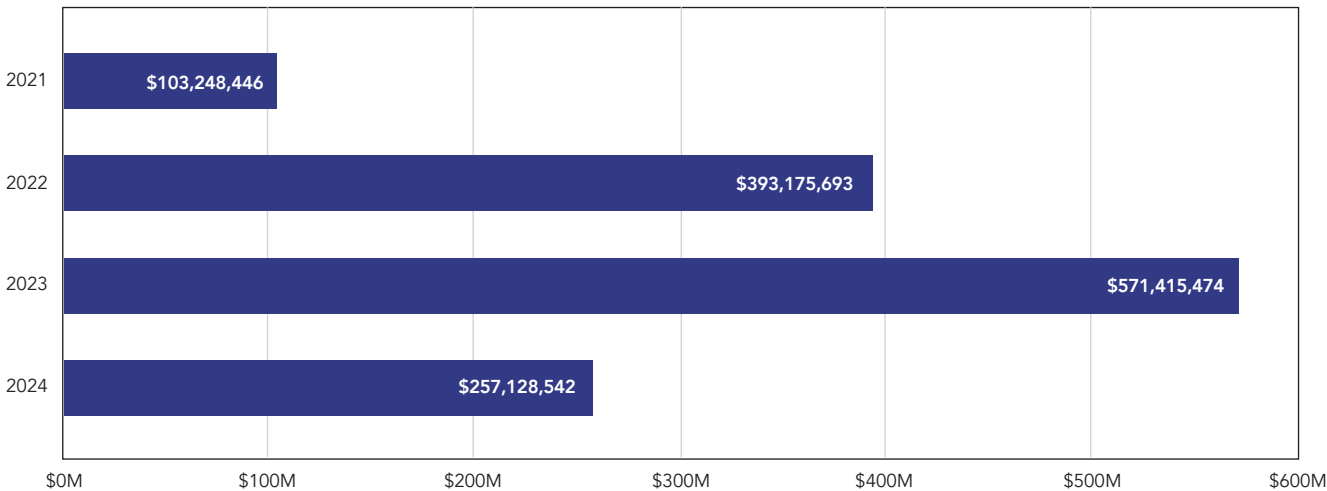
UNEVEN PROGRESS

Underlying the historically positive national picture is tremendous variation by state. While some states moved rapidly ahead, others made little or no progress. Five states have no state-funded preschool program, and many others serve very few children, spend too little per child, and/or have such low standards for quality that their programs provide little support for the gains in learning and development needed for investments in pre-K to payoff for children and taxpayers.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the national percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled in pre-K has increased from 34% to 37% while the percentage of 3-year-olds enrolled increased from 6% to 8%. But almost half of states with a preschool program (22) enrolled fewer children in fall 2023 than fall 2019 and 14 states served a lower percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in fall 2023 than fall 2019 (See Tables 3A & 3B). As noted earlier, most of the national progress was concentrated in a handful of states — California, Colorado, Kansas, New York, Ohio — while others have fallen further behind — Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, Wisconsin.

State spending for preschool increased by \$2.9 billion from before the COVID-19 pandemic to the 2023-2024 school year, and state spending per child increased by \$1,353 (adjusted for inflation). Notably, many states utilized federal COVID-19 relief funds to help stabilize and even expand their preschool programs. During the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years, a total of 34 of 45 states with preschool programs reported using COVID-19 relief funding to support preschool. States reported using more than \$1.3 billion in COVID-19 relief funds over those four years, though this is likely an underestimate as many states could not report the amount of funding. In 2023-2024, states reported approximately \$257 million in COVID-19 relief funding, less than half of what they spent in 2022-2023 (See Figure 4). Many states have used state funds to fill in the gap left by COVID-19 relief funding (like Michigan, North Dakota, and Rhode Island) but others have seen decreases in overall preschool funding (like Arkansas and Florida).

FIGURE 4: COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING FOR PRESCHOOL DROPPED BY HALF



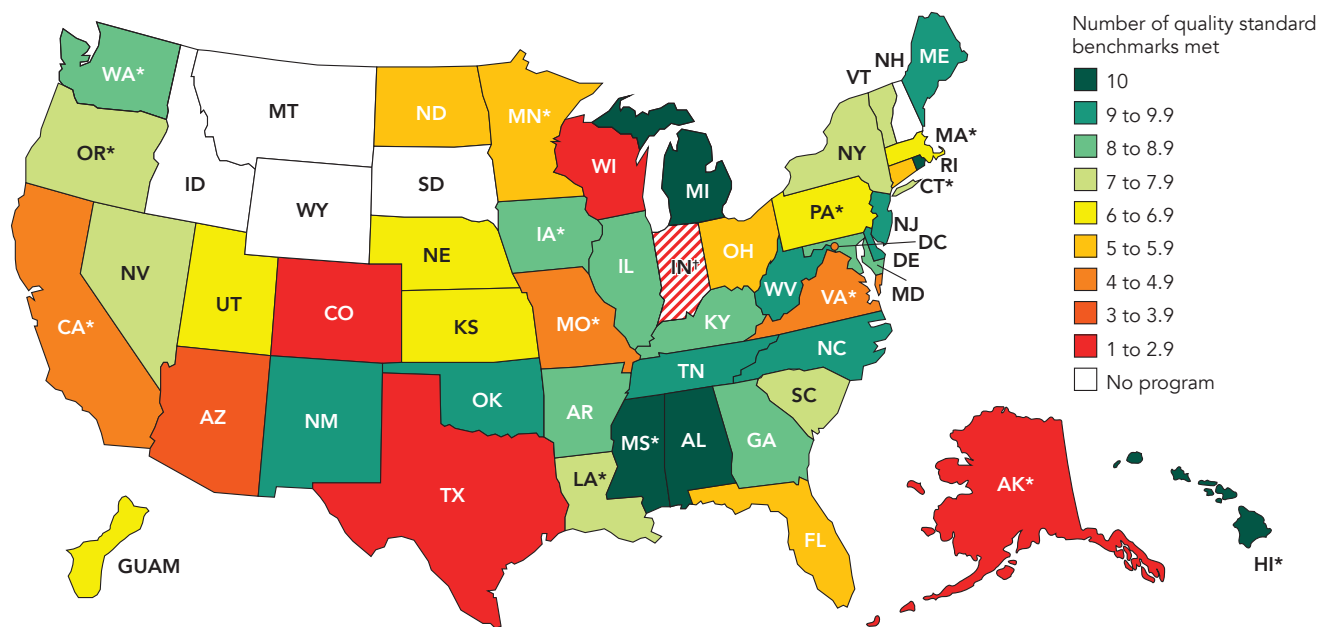
WHERE IMPROVEMENT IS MOST NEEDED: QUALITY STANDARDS

Standards for quality are too low in most programs (See Figure 5), and improvements have been few and far between. Instead, some states rolled back standards recently. Texas no longer requires a bachelor's degree and P-6 certification for preschool teachers in public schools. North Carolina raised class sizes from 18 to 20 and increased ratios from 1:9 to 1:10 beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. Many states with policies requiring lead preschool teachers to have at least a bachelor's degree report higher numbers of lead preschool teachers who do not have the degree because waivers have increased amid recent workforce shortages. Georgia stands out most recently for moving in the right direction on quality by reducing class size and improving teacher-child ratios starting in the 2024-2025 school year and providing lead and assistant teachers with raises.

Between the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, only one state had a policy change that resulted in an additional benchmark being met: Utah met the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) benchmark for the first time. Three states moved in the other direction, with policy changes that reduced the number of quality standards benchmarks met (Nebraska, Texas, and Virginia).

When states put money into quality programs they are investing in children's futures and can expect to see returns on their investments. Low spending results in low quality. While that may seem to save money, it is wasteful and costly in the long-run to fund programs that do not adequately support long-term gains and may even harm long-term outcomes for some children. Investing in quality raises the cost of pre-K but results in a larger long-term net return. In 2023-2024, only 18 state-funded preschool programs met 9 or 10 of NIEER's benchmarks for minimum program quality. Twenty-one programs met 5 or fewer. However, those 21 programs served 44% of children in state-funded preschool compared to only 16% in the higher quality programs.

FIGURE 5: PROGRESS IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE QUALITY PRESCHOOL IN MORE STATES



* For states with more than one state-funded preschool program, the weighted average number of quality standards met is shown on the map.

† Indiana's state-funded ECE program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility.

LEARNING FROM LEADING STATES

ENROLLMENT LEADERS

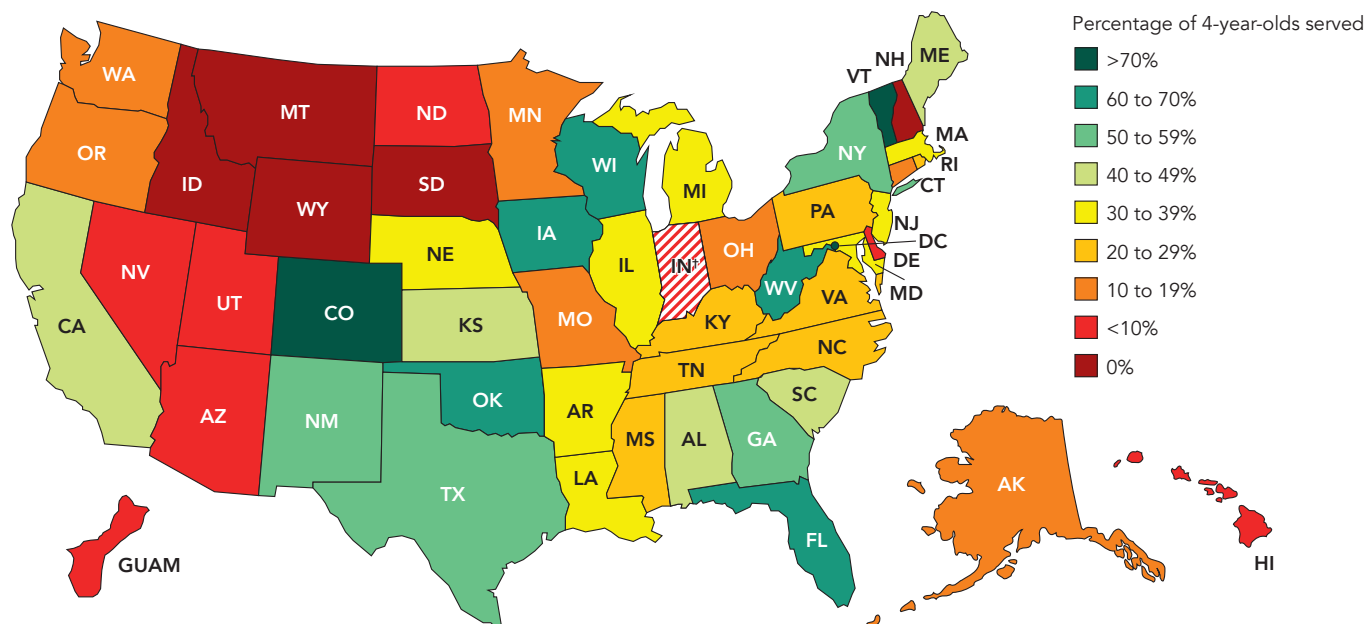
Two small “states” led the nation in access to quality pre-K. The District of Columbia enrolled 95% of 4-year-olds and 82% of 3-year-olds, far surpassing all states. Vermont followed, enrolling 76% of 4-year-olds and 58% of 3-year-olds (See Figures 6 and 7 and Table 2). Other states that stand out for long-standing high levels of enrollment are Iowa and West Virginia. Colorado rocketed into third place in access for 4-year-olds as it rapidly expanded enrollment in a single year under its new universal preschool program, though quality standards are limited and are still being developed. California and New Mexico are other states with high rates of growth, and if they continue to expand at recent rates, they could enroll two-thirds of their 4-year-olds in the next few years.

An alarm is raised by enrollment trends in some states with universal pre-K programs where enrollment rates have not recovered since the pandemic and continued to decline into 2024. Why? Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin all had substantive enrollment declines since at least 2019-2020 (starting before the pandemic) and continued to decline in 2023-2024. Florida, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin all once enrolled more than 70% of 4-year-olds but now serve 63% to 66%. Georgia’s enrollment declined from a high of 61% to 55% of 4-year-olds. This could be related to a trend toward lower enrollment rates in public education more generally, but these pre-K enrollment rates are far below K-12 rates for public schools. Not all states with universal pre-K show this trend, but others, notably Iowa and West Virginia, seem “stuck” at 67% which is about the same as five years ago. This leads to a broader question. What enrollment rate should be expected for universal pre-K?

While the District of Columbia enrolls 95% of 4-year-olds, enrollment rates drop to 75% and even the low 60s for some states with “universal pre-K”. When preschool special education and federal Head Start are added, enrollment rates rise but remain well below the District’s high mark. A comparison of enrollment at age 4 to enrollment at ages 5 and 6 sheds lights on this issue: In 2022, nationally, 84% of 5-year-olds were enrolled in school, including 65% in public school program and 19% in private kindergarten. At age 6, when all children have access to free public education (some 5-year-olds are not yet old enough for kindergarten or are held back), nationally, 97% enrolled in school in 2022, including 87% in public school and 10% in private school.

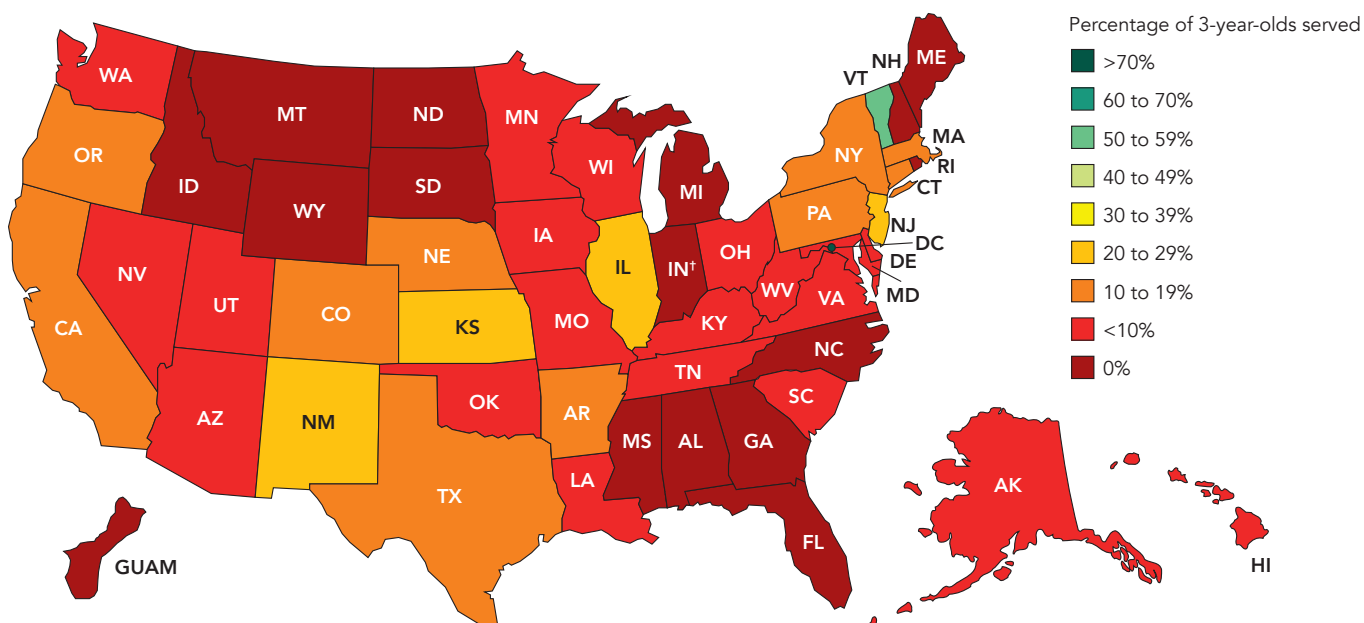


FIGURE 6: ELEVEN STATES AND DC SERVE AT LEAST HALF OF 4-YEAR-OLDS IN STATE-FUNDED PRESCHOOL



[†] Indiana's state-funded ECE program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility.

FIGURE 7: PRESCHOOL ACCESS FOR 3-YEAR-OLDS REMAINS LOW ALMOST EVERYWHERE, LAGGING BEHIND 4-YEAR-OLD ACCESS



[†] Indiana's state-funded ECE program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility.

Based on these enrollment rates for 5- and 6-year-olds, one could speculate that a universal public pre-K program might enroll only 65% of preschoolers, with Head Start and private (e.g., child care) enrollment raising the total to about 85%. However, why shouldn't public programs expect to enroll 85% of 4-year-olds, with private providers raising enrollment rates to around 95% as is common for older children? This pattern would be more consistent with preschool enrollment rates in most other developed nations.¹

Further attention should be given to the sources of low enrollment in publicly-funded preschool programs. Are parents dissatisfied with quality or with limited hours that do not meet child care needs for working families? Does lack of transportation limit access? As the District of Columbia and Vermont have by far the highest enrollment rates in very different contexts, states with much lower enrollment in universal programs could look to them for advice.

The importance of state leadership in recognizing and seeking to influence federal policy impacts on states is evident from examining trends in combined (unduplicated) enrollment across state pre-K, Head Start, and early childhood special education. States increased 4-year-old pre-K enrollment by six percentage points over the last decade, but because Head Start decreased enrollment at age 4, there was only a three-percentage point increase overall (See Figure 8). Although that decrease in Head Start enrollment results from an increase in the percentage of children served for a full school day and shift in funding toward Early Head Start, it impeded progress toward serving all 4-year-olds in poverty and undercut the progress made by states to expand ECE access.

If federal proposals to defund Head Start are enacted, state ECE progress will be undercut with some states totally overwhelmed by decreased ECE access at both ages 3 and 4. Table A and Table 4 show how ECE enrollment would decrease in each state if Head Start is defunded. These decreases reflect not just the reduction in unduplicated enrollment but the loss of enrollment for children jointly funded by Head Start and states in partnership.

FIGURE 8: ENROLLMENT IN STATE-FUNDED PRE-K, HEAD START, & EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION: 4-YEAR-OLDS

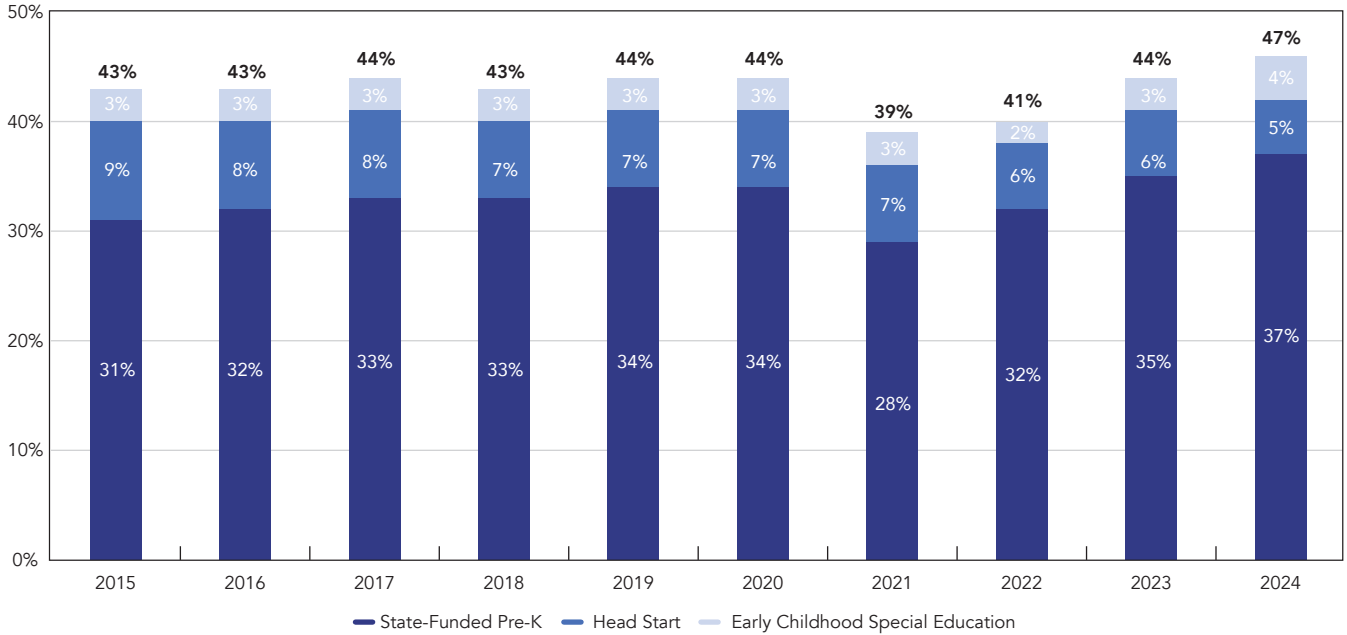


TABLE A: 2023-2024 FEDERAL HEAD START ENROLLMENT BY STATE*

STATE	3-YEAR-OLDS		4-YEAR-OLDS	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Alabama	5,104	9%	4,168	7%
Alaska	1,083	12%	1,131	12%
Arizona	5,174	7%	6,639	8%
Arkansas	2,363	6%	1,874	5%
California	28,541	7%	20,423	5%
Colorado	3,000	5%	3,952	6%
Connecticut	1,807	5%	1,966	5%
Delaware	459	4%	554	5%
District of Columbia	231	3%	193	3%
Florida	14,168	6%	14,958	6%
Georgia	9,353	7%	6,640	5%
Hawaii	762	5%	983	6%
Idaho	1,006	4%	1,242	5%
Illinois	8,449	6%	7,367	5%
Indiana	3,870	5%	4,260	5%
Iowa	2,510	7%	2,395	6%
Kansas	2,170	6%	2,580	7%
Kentucky	5,019	9%	5,319	10%
Louisiana	8,856	16%	5,337	9%
Maine	809	6%	986	8%
Maryland	3,161	4%	2,013	3%
Massachusetts	4,207	6%	3,593	5%
Michigan	10,061	9%	8,998	8%
Minnesota	3,978	6%	3,679	5%
Mississippi	6,725	19%	8,074	23%
Missouri	5,358	7%	3,775	5%
Montana	1,317	11%	1,411	12%
Nebraska	1,403	6%	1,706	7%
Nevada	1,178	3%	890	2%
New Hampshire	501	4%	522	4%
New Jersey	4,944	5%	5,171	5%
New Mexico	2,791	13%	2,695	12%
New York	16,014	8%	16,042	8%
North Carolina	5,828	5%	7,507	6%
North Dakota	823	8%	982	10%
Ohio	10,244	8%	11,203	8%
Oklahoma	6,160	12%	3,886	8%
Oregon	2,305	6%	2,034	5%
Pennsylvania	8,336	6%	10,072	7%
Rhode Island	736	7%	766	7%
South Carolina	5,683	10%	2,776	5%
South Dakota	1,352	11%	1,833	15%
Tennessee	6,037	7%	6,594	8%
Texas	26,105	7%	20,834	5%
Utah	1,886	4%	2,188	5%
Vermont	299	5%	340	6%
Virginia	4,427	4%	4,800	5%
Washington	3,954	5%	4,003	5%
West Virginia	2,378	13%	4,131	23%
Wisconsin	5,667	9%	3,303	5%
Wyoming	594	9%	540	8%
50 states + DC	259,185	7%	239,332	6%
Guam	154	5%	380	13%

* Data come from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) for 2023-2024, and the Head Start Service Location dataset. See the Methodology for additional details.

FUNDING LEADERS

Four states — California, New Jersey, New York, and Texas — each spent \$1 billion or more on preschool in 2023-2024. California alone spent more than \$3.8 billion. Preschool spending in these four states accounted for 51% of all state preschool spending in the nation. As these states have just 30% of the nation's children and 41% of its pre-K enrollment, their outsized impact reflects both serving higher proportions of the population and higher spending per child. At the other extreme, four states with programs — Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota, and Utah — each spent less than \$10 million.

To compare funding adequacy across states adjusting for the numbers of children served, one must examine funding per child. The District of Columbia ranked first as it spent \$23,785 per child, followed by Oregon (\$18,637) and New Jersey (\$17,911). At the other end, 13 states with programs spent less than \$5,000 per child (See Table 6). Although in some states local sources supplement state funding, this is not always the case, and funding per child from all sources also varies widely across states. Dependence on local funds also means that funding per child can vary greatly within states, though data are not available on this variation.

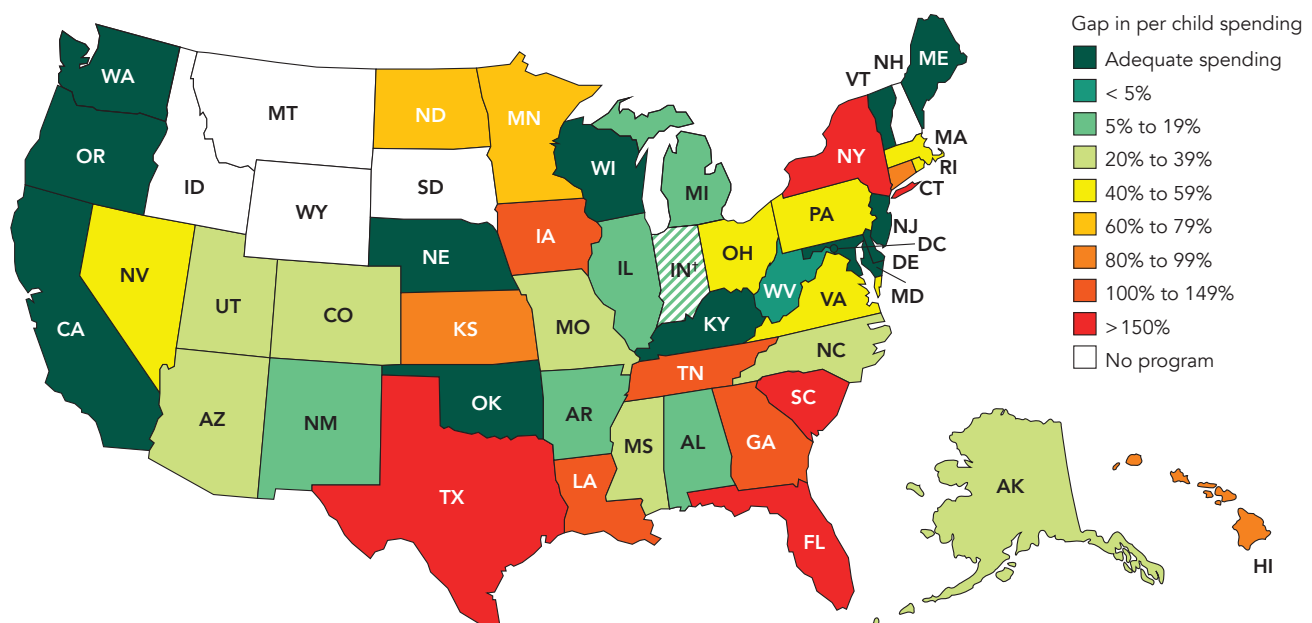
To better assess funding adequacy, we estimated how much each state needs to spend per child and in total to support minimum quality standards and provide K-12 pay parity for preschool teachers within their current operating structures (half-day and/or full-day). Table B shows estimates of how much each state should spend per child and for all children currently enrolled. A limitation is that some states cannot report all the funds supporting state-funded pre-K. This leads to uneven comparisons across states and underestimates of spending adequacy. Despite these shortcomings, we can be reasonably certain that 15 states spend enough to meet these standards. In another eight states, reported spending is less than half of the cost to meet minimum standards, which is an unreasonably high gap for local spending to fill. For other states, the situation is less clear. Estimated gaps in spending are shown in Table B and Figure 9.

QUALITY STANDARDS LEADERS

Alabama, Hawaii, Michigan, Mississippi, and Rhode Island are the only states to meet all 10 of NIEER's benchmarks for minimum quality standards for preschool. Other states come close with nine benchmarks including Delaware, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Some states with multiple programs have one of their programs at this level but not all. Not surprisingly, none of the programs meeting 9 or 10 benchmarks are among the lowest spenders per child, and most provide strong financial support. Some of these quality leaders also offer universal programs and have either attained or are moving rapidly toward high enrollment rates.

Although much can be learned from many state leaders, we highlight Alabama, Michigan, New Mexico, and Oklahoma as having strong lessons for other states despite taking different paths. These are described briefly in the highlighted pullout section below.

FIGURE 9: ONLY THIRTEEN STATES AND DC REPORT SPENDING WITHIN 5% OF ESTIMATED ADEQUATE PRESCHOOL FUNDING



[†] Indiana's state-funded ECE program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility.

TABLE B: MINIMUM GAP IN SPENDING PER CHILD AND TOTAL SPENDING FOR STATE-FUNDED PRESCHOOL

STATE	All-reported \$ per child enrolled in preschool	Estimated per child cost of high quality preschool	Gap between needed and current per child spending	Percentage gap in per child spending	Additional \$ to meet quality standards for existing seats
Alabama	\$10,063	\$11,388	\$1,325	13%	\$32,649,959
Alaska	\$6,959	\$8,548	\$1,589	23%	\$2,093,351
Arizona	\$7,972	\$10,865	\$2,893	36%	\$18,293,145
Arkansas	\$10,442	\$12,458	\$2,016	19%	\$40,954,653
California	\$15,421		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
Colorado	\$5,722	\$7,148	\$1,426	25%	\$75,034,989
Connecticut	\$9,194	\$16,741	\$7,547	82%	\$93,076,031
Delaware	\$11,753		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
District of Columbia	\$23,785		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
Florida	\$2,856	\$7,236	\$4,381	153%	\$669,687,797
Georgia	\$6,400	\$13,369	\$6,969	109%	\$498,451,186
Hawaii	\$7,398	\$13,650	\$6,252	85%	\$6,414,735
Idaho			NO PROGRAM		
Illinois	\$8,133	\$9,126	\$993	12%	\$81,878,340
Indiana [†]	\$11,986	\$12,841	\$855	7%	\$6,799,070
Iowa	\$3,878	\$8,824	\$4,946	128%	\$139,417,058
Kansas	\$4,562	\$8,724	\$4,163	91%	\$100,885,570
Kentucky	\$12,673		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
Louisiana	\$5,676	\$12,721	\$7,045	124%	\$137,484,938
Maine	\$10,714		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
Maryland	\$17,262		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
Massachusetts	\$6,033	\$8,842	\$2,810	47%	\$98,770,606
Michigan	\$12,761	\$14,073	\$1,312	10%	\$53,964,380
Minnesota	\$6,868	\$11,585	\$4,717	69%	\$37,111,666
Mississippi	\$9,753	\$11,720	\$1,967	20%	\$14,056,192
Missouri	\$4,844	\$6,374	\$1,530	32%	\$13,456,254
Montana			NO PROGRAM		
Nebraska	\$12,156		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
Nevada	\$9,703	\$14,454	\$4,751	49%	\$17,133,263
New Hampshire			NO PROGRAM		
New Jersey	\$17,911		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
New Mexico	\$13,227	\$14,748	\$1,521	11%	\$24,479,041
New York	\$6,285	\$18,561	\$12,276	195%	\$1,951,305,145
North Carolina	\$9,394	\$12,017	\$2,623	28%	\$71,621,389
North Dakota	\$6,118	\$10,874	\$4,756	78%	\$4,261,497
Ohio	\$4,250	\$6,468	\$2,218	52%	\$62,423,392
Oklahoma	\$11,103		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
Oregon	\$18,637		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
Pennsylvania	\$8,336	\$12,766	\$4,430	53%	\$244,448,542
Rhode Island	\$10,039	\$15,927	\$5,888	59%	\$13,918,629
South Carolina	\$4,534	\$13,430	\$8,896	196%	\$241,711,220
South Dakota			NO PROGRAM		
Tennessee	\$6,270	\$12,728	\$6,458	103%	\$113,874,734
Texas	\$4,767	\$13,780	\$9,013	189%	\$2,238,552,074
Utah	\$4,973	\$6,788	\$1,815	37%	\$3,650,467
Vermont	\$10,115		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
Virginia	\$9,751	\$16,278	\$5,509	57%	\$137,691,609
Washington	\$13,013		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
West Virginia	\$11,833	\$11,899	\$66	1%	\$916,249
Wisconsin	\$6,918		ADEQUATE SPENDING		
Wyoming			NO PROGRAM		
Total					\$7,246,467,170

[†] Indiana's state-funded ECE program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility.

Alabama

ALABAMA has been a leader in expanding access to quality preschool for almost two decades. The First Class Pre-K (FCPK) program has set and maintained standards that meet all 10 of NIEER's quality standards benchmarks. Alabama prioritizes quality over rapid growth. The program has grown enrollment gradually but steadily, reaching 41% in 2023-2024 while maintaining quality standards without reducing funding per child. Alabama's program also stands out for supporting salary parity for teachers to enhance quality and prevent teacher shortages and for a 6.5 hour per day to better support child development and parental employment. FCPK's funding model includes start-up funds for classrooms to support growth and grants to help programs improve quality to support effectiveness. The state has also benefited from support from the business coalition which has built strong political support for preschool. Evaluations indicate that FCPK improves participants' long-term educational outcomes.²



New Mexico

NEW MEXICO is a preschool rising star. The New Mexico PreK program (NM PreK) meets 9 of 10 NIEER quality standards benchmarks (missing the teacher degree benchmark because lead teachers in nonpublic schools are not required to have a bachelor's degree). Since 2005-2006 enrollment in NM PreK has grown gradually, but in the last few years it has skyrocketed. Between 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, enrollment of 3-year-olds increased by 10 percentage points, almost doubling, and enrollment of 4-year-olds increased by six percentage points, surpassing 50% for the first time. This growth alone is remarkable, but it occurred at the same time the state shifted toward greater provision of school-day slots, increased the annual hours for a school-day slot from 900 to 1,080, and added a new extended plus program that provides year-round pre-K. Funding per child has also increased in recent years to both cover more hours and to increase salaries for lead and assistant teachers. Lead and assistant NM PreK teachers in public schools have salary parity with other public school teachers. This progress was made possible by a new dedicated funding source: revenues from New Mexico's Land Grant Permanent Fund (LGPF). The LGPF is a sovereign wealth fund based on leases and royalties from natural resources. In 2022, voters approved a constitutional amendment requiring a 1.25% distribution from the fund to provide early childhood education. The amendment was passed by more than 70% of voters.⁴ Other states that might consider such a step because they have large sovereign wealth funds are Alaska and North Dakota.

Michigan

MICHIGAN has been a long-time leader in quality and has recently begun working towards universal preschool. Like Alabama, Michigan's policies meet all 10 of NIEER's quality standard benchmarks which are embedded in state policy. Enrollment in Michigan's Great Start School Readiness Program (GSRP) has increased slowly, but in recent years the state has prioritized serving more children in school-day programs (6.5 hours per day) and fewer children in part-day programs (3 hours per day). One key to creating school-day slots has been through GSRP-blended slots that are funded partially by GSRP and partially by Head Start. The state has also increased funding for GSRP in recent years, raising the per child rate significantly. GSRP funding includes funding for transportation, curricula and training on curricula, and outreach to parents. To reach the stated goal of universal preschool for 4-year-olds, Michigan has increased the income-eligibility limit for priority enrollment, up to 400% of the federal poverty level for the 2025-2026 school year.³



Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA was one of the first states to have universal preschool for 4-year-olds, and it is offered in all school districts in the state.⁵ Currently the state enrolls 66% of 4-year-olds in its Oklahoma Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program. The state also supports a small percentage (6%) of 3-year-olds in preschool. Oklahoma's preschool program meets 9 of 10 NIEER quality standards benchmarks, falling short on requirements for assistant teachers, something the state is working on improving. Oklahoma built in quality from the start by requiring that all teachers meet public school teacher standards and be paid as public school teachers. Preschool is funded through the school funding formula and state, local, and federal (to a lesser extent) funds support the program. Rigorous evaluations of the program in Tulsa have found numerous positive impacts including a 12 percentage point increase in college enrollment.⁵

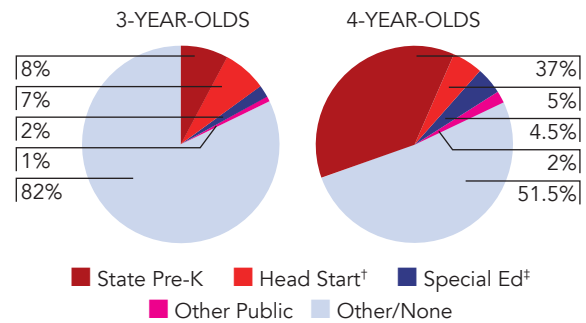
Oklahoma experienced a declining K-12 population a quarter century ago and was perhaps the first state to recognize that the problems this caused (e.g., school closures, lost economies of scale) could be addressed by adding universal preschool to the public education system.⁶ States facing large declines in K-12 population today that might learn from Oklahoma include California, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and West Virginia. Some of these states seem to have already started down a similar path to Oklahoma. As 40 states are predicted to experience some decline in K-12 enrollment, most states should monitor this trend and consider pre-K expansion as an approach to dealing with the problems and opportunities associated with declining enrollment.⁷

As discussed earlier, Oklahoma is one of the leaders in universal pre-K that has experienced a long-term decline in the percentage of children enrolled from its peak in the last decade. Why this has occurred is something of a mystery. However, Oklahoma and the other states with similar downward trends should be considered "canaries in the coal mine," early warnings of a problem that others may experience and that needs to be addressed. In particular, states need to ensure that children in the most economically disadvantaged families enroll in preschool at very high rates (90% or more) as the payoffs are biggest for these children. It may not be a coincidence that Head Start programs targeting young children in poverty also have experienced more enrollment problems in recent years.

NATIONAL ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment, all ages.....	1,751,109
State-funded preschool programs.....	64 programs in 44 states and DC ¹
Income requirement	35 state programs have an income requirement
Minimum hours of operation.....	30 part-day; 16 school-day; 7 extended-day; 11 determined locally ²
Operating schedule.....	2 full calendar year; 41 school/ academic year; 21 determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	518,951
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	518,395 ³
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	14,411 ⁴

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN 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.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST SUMMARY

POLICY	BENCHMARK	OF THE 64 STATE-FUNDED PRE-K INITIATIVES, NUMBER MEETING BENCHMARK
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	63
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	60
Teacher degree	BA	31
Teacher specialized training	Specializing in pre-K	47
Assistant teacher degree	CDA or equivalent	20
Staff professional development	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; Individual PD plans; Coaching	19
Maximum class size	20 or lower	49
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better	51
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	43
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	43

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

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$13,624,271,021 ⁵
Local match required?	12
State Head Start spending	\$352,604,083 ⁶
State spending per child enrolled	\$7,888 ⁵
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$8,857

* 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.

¹ Throughout this report, the District of Columbia is included like a state, resulting in a list of 45 states for rankings. Indiana's state-funded early childhood education program is similar to state-funded preschool in other states. However, because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility, the program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program. Indiana program information is included in the report but not in national totals or rankings. In 2015-2016, Guam began offering a "state"-funded pre-K program but is not included in totals or rankings in this report.

² NIEER's definitions of hours of operation are as follows: part-day programs serve children for fewer than 4 hours per day; school-day programs serve children at least 4 hours per day but fewer than 6.5 hours per day; and extended-day programs serve children for 6.5 or more hours per day. Some programs offer multiple hours of operation but only the minimum one is listed here.

³ The enrollment figures for federal Head Start include children in the program in all 50 states, D.C., and the U.S. territories, as well as enrollment in the Migrant & Seasonal and American Indian/Native Alaskan programs. These numbers do not include children funded by state match.

⁴ This figure is based on the Head Start enrollment supported by state match as reported in the survey by states. This figure includes 13,708 children who attended programs that were considered to be state-funded preschool programs and are also included in the state-funded preschool enrollment total.

⁵ This figure includes federal TANF funds and federal COVID-19 relief funds directed toward preschool at states' discretion.

⁶ This figure includes \$242,263,080 also included in the total state pre-K spending. This also includes some funding for state supplements to Early Head Start where states could not separate Head Start and Early Head Start funding.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

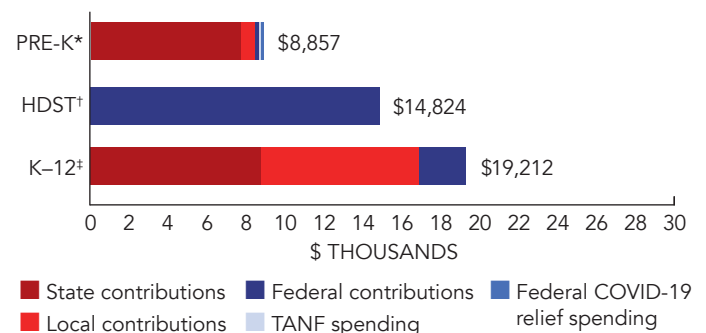


TABLE 1: STATE RANKINGS AND QUALITY CHECKLIST SUMS

STATE	Access for 4-year-olds rank	Access for 3-year-olds rank	Resources rank based on state spending	Resources rank based on all reported spending	Quality standards checklist sum (maximum of 10)
Alabama	17	None Served	18	17	10
Alaska	38	24	20	28	2.9
Arizona	44	27	15	26	3
Arkansas	24	8	31	15	8
California	13	16	4	5	4.2
Colorado	3	12	29	36	2
Connecticut	36	11	12	23	5.1
Delaware	42	25	8	12	9*
District of Columbia	1	1	1	1	4
Florida	7	None Served	44	45	5
Georgia	10	None Served	23	31	8
Hawaii†	43	28	17	27	10*
Illinois	20	3	26	25	8
Iowa	5	21	41	44	8
Kansas	16	5	36	41	6
Kentucky	26	18	22	9	8*
Louisiana	23	33	30	37	7.8
Maine	14	None Served	24	14	9
Maryland	18	20	9	4	8
Massachusetts	25	9	43	35	6
Michigan	19	None Served	7	8	10*
Minnesota†	37	34	21	30	5.4
Mississippi	31	None Served	37	19	10
Missouri	39	29	34	39	4.3
Nebraska	22	10	45	10	6
Nevada	41	31	10	21	7
New Jersey	21	4	3	3	9
New Mexico	12	6	5	6	9
New York	9	7	25	32	7*
North Carolina	28	None Served	19	22	9*
North Dakota	40	None Served	28	34	5
Ohio	35	23	39	43	5
Oklahoma	6	22	32	13	9
Oregon	34	14	2	2	7.6
Pennsylvania†	27	13	14	24	6.7*
Rhode Island	29	None Served	11	18	10
South Carolina	15	35	38	42	7
Tennessee	32	32	33	33	9
Texas	11	15	35	40	2
Utah	45	30	42	38	6
Vermont	2	2	13	16	7
Virginia	30	26	27	20	4.9
Washington	33	17	6	7	8.2
West Virginia	4	19	16	11	9
Wisconsin	8	36	40	29	2
Indiana**	Work requirement	Work requirement	Work requirement	Work requirement	2
Idaho	No program	No program	No program	No program	No program
Montana	No program	No program	No program	No program	No program
New Hampshire	No program	No program	No program	No program	No program
South Dakota	No program	No program	No program	No program	No program
Wyoming	No program	No program	No program	No program	No program

† At least one program in these states did not break down total enrollment figures into specific numbers of 3- and 4-year-olds served. As a result, enrollment by single year of age was estimated.

* Indicates that while a policy meets the benchmark, at least one benchmark in the program is not being fully implemented.

** Indiana's state-funded early childhood education program is similar to state-funded preschool in other states. However, because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility, the program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program. Indiana program information is reported here but not in national totals or rankings.



WHAT'S NEW: THE DETAILS

RESOURCES

- Total state spending for preschool programs reached an all-time high of \$13.6 billion across 44 states and the District of Columbia.* Six states still did not fund a preschool program meeting NIEER's definition in 2023-2024, though Indiana offers a program that provides similar services but with eligibility limited by a work or school requirement. States reported spending \$257 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding. States' use of COVID-19 relief funding declined by almost half since the prior school year, and that funding source will no longer be available.
- Including COVID-19 relief dollars, spending on state-funded preschool increased by \$1.93 billion (17%), adjusted for inflation, from 2022-2023.
- Average state funding per child enrolled (including COVID-19 relief) was \$7,888 in 2023-2024. Adjusted for inflation, this is a \$675 per child increase from 2022-2023 (and more than double the increase seen last year).
- All-reported spending, which includes local and federal dollars to the extent that states can report them, topped \$15 billion for the first time ever, an inflation-adjusted increase of nearly \$2 billion (15%) from 2022-2023. All-reported spending per child was \$8,857, an inflation-adjusted increase of \$636 from 2022-2023.

ENROLLMENT

- States enrolled more than 1.75 million children in state-funded preschool in 2023-2024, including 1.42 million 4-year-olds and 307,232 three-year-olds. States enrolled 8% of 3-year-olds and 37% of 4-year-olds.
- Enrollment in state-funded preschool reached all-time highs in the total number of children, the number of 3-year-olds, the number of 4-year-olds, the percentage of 3-year-olds, and the percentages of 4-year-olds. Enrollment in state-funded preschool increased by 111,243 children, or 7%. The total number of children enrolled in state-funded preschool increased in all but nine states.

*Consistent with U.S. government statistical practices, the District of Columbia will be referred to as a "state" throughout this report. Hence, we report 45 "states" providing state-funded preschool.

- Nationally, enrollment in state-funded preschool recovered from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 94,435 more children enrolled in state-funded preschool in fall 2023 than in fall 2019, up 6%. However, progress has been uneven, and many states still enroll fewer children and/or a lower percentage of children than before the pandemic.
- The District of Columbia and 11 states enrolled more than 50% of 4-year-olds in state-funded preschool. The District, Vermont, and Colorado all served 70% or more of 4-year-olds.
- Only the District of Columbia (82%) and Vermont (58%) served more than one-quarter of 3-year-olds. Four other states (Illinois, New Jersey, Kansas, and New Mexico) enrolled more than 20% of 3-year-olds.
- Across all major public programs — state-funded preschool, preschool special education, and Head Start — 47% of 4-year-olds and 17% of 3-year-olds were served. Enrollment in Head Start at ages 3 and 4 decreased between 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and it remains below pre-pandemic levels as well.

QUALITY STANDARDS

- Alabama, Hawaii, Michigan, Mississippi, and Rhode Island continue to be the only states to meet all 10 of NIEER's benchmarks for state preschool quality standards.
- Twenty-one state-funded preschool programs met five or fewer of the quality standards benchmarks, including three of the four largest programs (California TK, Florida, and Texas). Forty-four percent of children in state-funded preschool were in a program meeting half or fewer of the quality standards benchmarks. Only 16% of children were in programs meeting nine or ten benchmarks. More than 2.5 times as many children were enrolled in programs meeting five or fewer benchmarks than were in programs that met nine or ten.
- Utah met the Early Learning and Development Standards benchmark for the first time now that their ELDS is aligned with their infant and toddler standards.
- NIEER's benchmarks are for policies regarding quality standards rather than implementation. However, at some point waivers or "exceptions" to policies — official or unofficial — become so extensive that the de facto policy is different and should be rated accordingly. During the pandemic, waivers to policies became much more extensive and some have continued even as the emergency has passed. As it is unclear yet whether these will be reversed, this year programs received an "***" for standards that were known to not be fully implemented. Five programs received an "***" for the lead teacher degree benchmark. Two programs received an "***" for the continuous quality improvement benchmark.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

- Indiana's On My Way Pre-K program is included in the Yearbook again. Although it does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program because of its parental work or school requirement, it does provide early education to 4-year-olds. The program is described on its profile page but is not included in national numbers or rankings.
- Several states added additional state-funded preschool programs:
 - Alaska began the Alaska Early Education Program Grant and the Alaska .5 ADM Approval Pre-K Program in addition to the Pre-Elementary Program.
 - Mississippi began the State Invested Pre-Kindergarten in addition to the Early Learning Collaborative program.
 - Missouri began the Missouri Quality Preschool Grant in addition to the Pre-K Foundation Formula program.
- Georgia piloted class size reductions from 22 to 20 with a 1:10 teacher to child ratio that goes into effect in the 2024-2025 school year.

¹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Online Education Database, retrieved September 16, 2019, from <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx>. See Digest of Education Statistics 2019, table 601.35. NCESE (2020). The Condition of Education. Chapter 4/International Comparisons. Retrieved from: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/pdf/coe_cgh.pdf

² First Class Pre-K Research Evaluation Team (2020). Alabama's First Class Pre-K Program: Outcomes and Impacts: A Summary of Results. Retrieved from: https://www.children.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Alabama-FCPK_Summary-of-Research-Evaluation-Results_January-2020.pdf

³ <https://www.michigan.gov/mileap/early-childhood-education/early-learners-and-care/gsrp> (Accessed April 2025).

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Mexico_Land_Grant_Permanent_Fund#cite_note-13 (Accessed April 2025).

⁵ Gormley, W. (2024). Universal Pre-K in Tulsa: A Surprising Success. The Journal of the National Association of State Boards of Education, 24. <https://www.nasbe.org/universal-pre-k-in-tulsa-a-surprising-success/>

⁶ <https://www.newson6.com/story/5e367f022f69d76f620929e0/census-finds-fewer-schoolage-children-in-oklahoma>. Accessed April 2025.

⁷ NCES (2023). Table 203.20. Enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools by region, state, and jurisdiction: Selected years, fall 1900 through fall 2023. Retrieved from: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d23/tables/dt23_203.20.asp

TABLE 2: STATE PRESCHOOL ACCESS BY STATE

ACCESS FOR 4-YEAR-OLDS RANK	STATE	PERCENT OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN STATE PREKINDERGARTEN (2023-2024)			NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN STATE PREKINDERGARTEN (2023-2024)		
		4-year-olds	3-year-olds	Total (3s and 4s)	4-year-olds	3-year-olds	Total (3s and 4s)
1	District of Columbia	95%	82%	88%	7,078	6,115	13,193
2	Vermont	76%	58%	67%	4,388	3,275	7,663
3	Colorado	70%	15%	43%	43,479	9,138	52,617
4	West Virginia	67%	7%	37%	12,064	1,311	13,375
5	Iowa	67%	6%	37%	25,606	2,302	27,908
6	Oklahoma	66%	6%	36%	33,349	3,010	36,359
7	Florida	65%	0%	33%	151,449	0	151,449
8	Wisconsin	63%	0.1%	32%	40,781	61	40,842
9	New York	56%	19%	38%	118,969	39,987	158,956
10	Georgia	55%	0%	28%	71,526	0	71,526
11	Texas	52%	11%	32%	204,876	42,590	247,466
12	New Mexico	51%	21%	36%	11,548	4,547	16,095
13	California	48%	10%	29%	207,852	42,855	250,707
14	Maine	47%	0%	24%	6,094	0	6,094
15	South Carolina	45%	0.2%	23%	26,990	135	27,125
16	Kansas	45%	21%	33%	16,200	7,553	23,753
17	Alabama	41%	0%	21%	24,640	0	24,640
18	Maryland	38%	7%	23%	27,501	5,227	32,728
19	Michigan	37%	0%	19%	41,120	0	41,120
20	Illinois	35%	24%	30%	48,774	33,568	82,342
21	New Jersey	34%	24%	29%	36,555	25,313	61,868
22	Nebraska	34%	16%	25%	8,668	4,032	12,700
23	Louisiana	34%	1%	17%	19,166	349	19,515
24	Arkansas	32%	19%	26%	12,077	6,927	19,004
25	Massachusetts	30%	17%	24%	21,014	11,593	32,607
26	Kentucky	27%	8%	18%	14,851	4,127	18,978
27	Pennsylvania	26%	13%	19%	35,452	17,505	52,958
28	North Carolina	22%	0%	11%	27,304	0	27,304
29	Rhode Island	22%	0%	11%	2,364	0	2,364
30	Virginia	22%	3%	13%	21,727	3,266	24,993
31	Mississippi	20%	0%	10%	7,145	0	7,145
32	Tennessee	20%	1%	11%	16,776	857	17,633
33	Washington	17%	8%	13%	14,830	6,860	21,690
34	Oregon	17%	12%	15%	7,186	5,118	12,304
35	Ohio	15%	6%	10%	20,218	7,926	28,144
36	Connecticut	13%	15%	14%	4,944	5,585	10,529
37	Minnesota	11%	1%	6%	7,501	367	7,868
38	Alaska	10%	4%	7%	940	345	1,285
39	Missouri	10%	2%	6%	7,529	1,165	8,694
40	North Dakota	9%	0%	4%	896	0	896
41	Nevada	9%	1%	5%	3,151	455	3,606
42	Delaware	8%	4%	6%	840	398	1,238
43	Hawaii	5%	2%	3%	734	279	1,013
44	Arizona	4%	3%	3%	3,213	2,370	5,583
45	Utah	3%	2%	2%	1,290	721	2,011
	50 states + DC*	37%	8%	23%	1,420,655	307,232	1,727,888
Work requirement†	Indiana†	9%	0%	5%	7,948	0	7,948
	Guam	2%	0%	1%	50	0	50
No program	Idaho	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0
No program	Montana	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0
No program	New Hampshire	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0
No program	South Dakota	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0
No program	Wyoming	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0

* Nationwide, an additional 23,221 children of other ages were enrolled in state prekindergarten, for a total of 1,751,109 children.

† Indiana's state-funded early childhood education program is similar to state-funded preschool in other states. However, because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility, the program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program. Indiana program information is reported here but not in national totals or rankings.

For details about how these figures were calculated, see the Methodology section and Roadmap to the State Profile Pages.

TABLE 3A: CHANGE IN PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF 3-YEAR-OLDS OVER TIME

STATE	2001-2002 TO 2023-2024		2019-2020 TO 2023-2024		2022-2023 TO 2023-2024	
	Number	% served	Number	% served	Number	% served
Alabama	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Alaska	345	4%	64	1%	195	2%
Arizona	2,370	3%	658	1%	183	0%
Arkansas	5,985	16%	276	2%	535	1%
California	31,931	8%	-13,383	-1%	4,574	1%
Colorado	8,408	14%	2,740	5%	4,193	7%
Connecticut	4,050	12%	160	1%	926	3%
Delaware	398	4%	135	1%	143	1%
District of Columbia	4,990	62%	-320	9%	186	3%
Florida	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Georgia	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Hawaii*	279	2%	279	2%	153	1%
Idaho	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Illinois	19,470	16%	-744	2%	1,064	1%
Indiana**	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Iowa	1,791	5%	863	2%	153	0%
Kansas	7,553	21%	6,157	18%	-78	0%
Kentucky	-745	-2%	-2,031	-3%	186	0%
Louisiana	349	1%	349	1%	194	0%
Maine	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Maryland	3,819	5%	2,787	4%	303	0%
Massachusetts	2,161	5%	-429	0%	862	1%
Michigan	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Minnesota*	-448	-1%	-169	0%	-48	0%
Mississippi	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missouri	-1,381	-2%	15	0%	245	0%
Montana	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Nebraska	3,908	15%	-288	0%	9	0%
Nevada	344	1%	455	1%	455	1%
New Hampshire	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
New Jersey	12,528	13%	3,054	3%	2,302	2%
New Mexico	4,077	19%	2,977	15%	2,103	10%
New York	34,152	17%	29,264	14%	7,099	4%
North Carolina	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
North Dakota	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Ohio	-1,788	-1%	6,139	5%	5,202	4%
Oklahoma	3,010	6%	171	1%	100	0%
Oregon	4,009	10%	1,532	5%	261	1%
Pennsylvania*	17,505	13%	2,447	2%	548	0%
Rhode Island	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
South Carolina	-215	0%	-122	0%	-56	0%
South Dakota	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Tennessee	15	0%	649	1%	-241	0%
Texas	22,849	5%	5,493	2%	2,135	1%
Utah	721	2%	202	0%	58	0%
Vermont	2,906	53%	-197	-1%	-736	-13%
Virginia	3,266	3%	3,266	3%	503	1%
Washington	5,711	7%	1,526	2%	-46	0%
West Virginia	-457	-1%	79	1%	133	1%
Wisconsin	-627	-1%	-341	0%	19	0%
Wyoming	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
United States	203,239	5%	53,713	2%	33,816	1%
Guam	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

* At least one program in these states did not break down total enrollment figures into specific numbers of 3- and 4-year-olds served. As a result, the figures in the table are estimates.

**Indiana's state-funded early childhood education program is similar to state-funded preschool in other states. However, because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility, the program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program. Indiana program information is reported here but not in national totals or rankings.

TABLE 3B: CHANGE IN PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF 4-YEAR-OLDS OVER TIME

STATE	2001-2002 TO 2023-2024		2019-2020 TO 2023-2024		2022-2023 TO 2023-2024	
	Number	% served	Number	% served	Number	% served
Alabama	23,884	40%	4,201	7%	1,252	2%
Alaska	940	10%	-183	-1%	50	1%
Arizona	-1,064	-2%	326	1%	111	0%
Arkansas	9,853	26%	-707	0%	136	0%
California	163,318	40%	25,461	11%	33,502	9%
Colorado	35,159	57%	26,941	46%	28,140	46%
Connecticut	527	4%	-3,042	-8%	-2,072	-5%
Delaware	-3	0%	258	2%	141	1%
District of Columbia	4,067	51%	-278	11%	257	7%
Florida	151,449	65%	-15,277	-6%	-2,575	-2%
Georgia	7,913	1%	-8,802	-5%	-1,936	-2%
Hawaii*	-515	-3%	56	1%	156	1%
Idaho	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Illinois	9,872	13%	-1,906	2%	274	1%
Indiana**	7,948	9%	4,431	5%	1,717	2%
Iowa	24,050	63%	-1,129	1%	-96	1%
Kansas	13,970	39%	4,827	15%	-131	0%
Kentucky	2,034	4%	-1,878	-3%	2	0%
Louisiana	11,647	22%	-1,289	1%	864	2%
Maine	4,654	37%	208	3%	154	0%
Maryland	9,127	13%	-3,168	-3%	864	1%
Massachusetts	11,582	19%	-600	0%	1,111	2%
Michigan	14,643	18%	3,752	5%	2,980	3%
Minnesota*	6,231	9%	-85	1%	117	0%
Mississippi	7,145	20%	4,081	12%	1,816	5%
Missouri	3,843	5%	1,888	3%	2,173	3%
Montana	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Nebraska	8,312	33%	-620	0%	45	0%
Nevada	2,830	8%	81	1%	670	2%
New Hampshire	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
New Jersey	12,674	14%	3,401	3%	1,179	1%
New Mexico	11,178	49%	1,051	10%	1,102	6%
New York	55,470	31%	9,553	8%	-3,655	-1%
North Carolina	26,064	21%	-3,755	-3%	1,620	1%
North Dakota	896	9%	-339	-2%	359	4%
Ohio	6,333	6%	4,135	3%	4,942	4%
Oklahoma	7,470	10%	-3,868	-4%	-532	-1%
Oregon	4,597	11%	1,412	5%	508	2%
Pennsylvania*	32,902	24%	3,406	3%	1,311	1%
Rhode Island	2,364	22%	944	9%	0	0%
South Carolina	11,340	16%	-1,693	-2%	952	1%
South Dakota	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Tennessee	15,018	18%	-1,481	-2%	37	0%
Texas	77,293	13%	-6,393	2%	2,356	1%
Utah	1,290	3%	-413	-1%	-34	0%
Vermont	3,768	67%	-234	-1%	681	12%
Virginia	15,849	15%	2,568	3%	339	0%
Washington	10,045	11%	6,164	8%	840	1%
West Virginia	6,979	43%	-1,327	-1%	-5	1%
Wisconsin	27,277	44%	-5,670	-5%	-248	-1%
Wyoming	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
United States	854,275	23%	77,019	3%	79,758	2%
Guam	50	2%	-21	-1%	-7	0%

* At least one program in these states did not break down total enrollment figures into specific numbers of 3- and 4-year-olds served. As a result, the figures in the table are estimates.

**Indiana's state-funded early childhood education program is similar to state-funded preschool in other states. However, because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility, the program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program. Indiana program information is reported here but not in national totals or rankings.

TABLE 4: 2023-2024 ENROLLMENT OF 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLDS IN STATE PRESCHOOL, PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION, AND FEDERAL AND STATE HEAD START

STATE	PRE-K + PRE-K SPECIAL EDUCATION				PRE-K + PRE-K SPECIAL EDUCATION + HEAD START ^{††}			
	3-year-olds		4-year-olds		3-year-olds		4-year-olds	
	Number enrolled	% of state population	Number enrolled	% of state population	Number enrolled	% of state population	Number enrolled	% of state population
Alabama [†]	829	1%	26,048	44%	5,933	10%	28,578	48%
Alaska ^{*,†}	547	6%	1,364	15%	1,639	18%	2,484	27%
Arizona	5,067	6%	8,294	10%	10,241	13%	14,933	18%
Arkansas	8,464	23%	17,453	47%	10,827	30%	19,327	52%
California	51,614	12%	210,380	49%	80,155	19%	230,803	53%
Colorado [†]	9,138	15%	43,479	70%	11,407	18%	45,734	74%
Connecticut [†]	7,782	21%	8,187	22%	9,637	26%	10,000	27%
Delaware	1,312	12%	2,190	20%	1,771	16%	2,745	25%
District of Columbia [†]	6,115	82%	7,080	95%	6,223	84%	7,113	95%
Florida [†]	6,290	3%	165,371	72%	20,458	9%	179,732	78%
Georgia [†]	2,576	2%	74,236	57%	11,928	9%	77,030	59%
Hawaii [*]	794	5%	1,815	11%	1,556	10%	2,799	17%
Idaho	721	3%	1,318	6%	1,727	7%	2,560	11%
Illinois [†]	33,568	24%	56,261	40%	41,702	30%	63,295	45%
Indiana ^{*,***}	3,787	5%	14,337	17%	7,657	9%	18,597	22%
Iowa [†]	2,447	6%	26,504	70%	4,695	12%	28,683	75%
Kansas	7,553	21%	17,191	48%	9,723	27%	19,771	55%
Kentucky [†]	4,127	8%	16,345	30%	9,146	17%	20,669	38%
Louisiana [*]	877	2%	23,995	43%	9,734	18%	29,332	52%
Maine [†]	458	4%	6,209	48%	1,267	10%	6,267	48%
Maryland ^{*,†}	8,117	11%	29,868	41%	11,257	16%	31,569	43%
Massachusetts [†]	11,593	17%	21,034	30%	15,594	23%	24,439	35%
Michigan [†]	2,210	2%	41,120	37%	12,271	11%	45,204	41%
Minnesota ^{**}	3,438	5%	16,091	24%	7,416	11%	19,770	29%
Mississippi [†]	162	0.5%	8,544	24%	6,887	20%	16,226	46%
Missouri [*]	4,114	6%	14,300	20%	9,472	13%	18,076	25%
Montana	18	0.2%	216	2%	1,335	11%	1,627	14%
Nebraska [†]	4,032	16%	8,788	35%	4,884	19%	9,557	38%
Nevada [†]	2,037	6%	5,853	16%	3,215	9%	6,508	18%
New Hampshire	919	7%	1,297	10%	1,420	11%	1,820	14%
New Jersey [†]	32,001	30%	46,018	43%	34,538	33%	47,713	45%
New Mexico [†]	5,288	24%	11,548	51%	7,669	35%	13,629	60%
New York [†]	48,362	23%	123,273	58%	61,491	29%	133,741	63%
North Carolina [†]	2,803	2%	33,282	27%	8,631	7%	37,478	31%
North Dakota [†]	353	3%	1,758	17%	1,176	12%	2,681	27%
Ohio	12,422	9%	31,231	23%	22,666	17%	42,434	31%
Oklahoma	3,010	6%	34,119	67%	9,170	18%	38,005	75%
Oregon	5,711	14%	9,822	23%	8,016	19%	11,856	28%
Pennsylvania ^{*,†}	23,312	17%	51,428	37%	31,519	23%	61,328	44%
Rhode Island [†]	521	5%	3,434	31%	1,320	12%	3,980	36%
South Carolina	1,901	3%	27,029	46%	7,583	13%	29,805	50%
South Dakota	302	3%	906	8%	1,654	14%	2,739	23%
Tennessee [†]	2,520	3%	21,035	25%	8,474	10%	25,996	31%
Texas [†]	46,665	12%	214,030	54%	68,396	18%	214,030	54%
Utah [*]	2,815	6%	5,302	11%	4,701	10%	7,490	16%
Vermont	3,275	58%	4,420	76%	3,574	63%	4,760	82%
Virginia [†]	6,019	6%	27,110	27%	10,422	11%	31,871	32%
Washington	8,914	10%	19,049	22%	12,868	15%	23,053	27%
West Virginia [†]	1,311	7%	12,064	67%	3,379	19%	13,032	73%
Wisconsin	1,724	3%	41,635	64%	7,589	12%	45,056	70%
Wyoming	554	9%	1,387	22%	1,148	18%	1,927	30%
United States	400,490	11%	1,595,050	42%	647,164	17%	1,777,851	47%
Guam	26	1%	82	3%	179	6%	462	15%

* These states serve special education children in their state pre-K programs but were not able to provide the number of children for at least one of their programs. Estimates were based on the average percent of special education students in state pre-K across all programs and enrollment numbers for each program or on percentages of children with IEPs reported in the previous year.

** The number of special education children in the Minnesota Head Start program was estimated based on the percentage of children with an IEP in Head Start as reported by the PIR.

*** Indiana's state-funded early childhood education program is similar to state-funded preschool in other states. However, because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility, the program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program. Indiana program information is reported here but not in national totals or rankings.

[†] At least one program in these states was able to report the number of children enrolled in state pre-K and Head Start. This information was used to estimate an unduplicated count of Head Start enrollment.

^{††} Totals can overestimate public enrollment in state pre-K, pre-K special education, and Head Start as some or all Head Start children may be served in a state's pre-K program and many states could not report this information.

For details about how these figures were calculated, see the Methodology section and the Roadmap to the State Profile Pages.

TABLE 5: 2023-2024 STATE PRESCHOOL QUALITY STANDARDS

STATE/ PROGRAM	Early learning & development standards	Curriculum supports	Teacher has BA	Specialized training in pre-K	Assistant teacher has CDA or equiv.	Staff professional development	Class size 20 or lower	Staff-child ratio 1:10 or better	Vision, hearing, & health screening & referral	Continuous quality improvement system	Quality standards checklist sum 2023-2024
Alabama	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Alaska Pre-Elementary	✓		✓								2
Alaska EEP	✓	✓					✓	✓			4
Alaska .5 ADM	✓	✓					✓	✓			4
Arizona	✓	✓								✓	3
Arkansas	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	8
California CSPP	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	6
California TK	✓	✓	✓								3
Colorado	✓	✓									2
Connecticut CDCC	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			5
Connecticut SR	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			5
Connecticut Smart Start	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			6
Delaware	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	9*
District of Columbia	✓	✓							✓	✓	4
Florida	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓	5
Georgia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	8
Hawaii EOEL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Hawaii SPCS	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10*
Illinois	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Iowa Shared Visions	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		7
Iowa SWVPP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		8
Kansas	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		6
Kentucky	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓*	8*
Louisiana 8(g)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	7
Louisiana LA 4	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Louisiana NSECD	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Maine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Maryland	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Massachusetts CPPI	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	6
Massachusetts Chapter 70	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	6
Michigan	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10*
Minnesota HdSt	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Minnesota VPK/SRP	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		5
Mississippi ELC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Mississippi SIP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Missouri Foundation Form.	✓		✓	✓				✓			4
Missouri QPK	✓			✓			✓	✓		✓	5
Nebraska	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			6
Nevada	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	7
New Jersey	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
New Mexico	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
New York	✓	✓	✓*	✓			✓	✓	✓		7*
North Carolina	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	9*
North Dakota	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		5
Ohio	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	5
Oklahoma	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Oregon OPK	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Oregon Preschool Promise	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	6
Pennsylvania RTL	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			5
Pennsylvania HSSAP	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		8
Pennsylvania K4 & SBPK	✓	✓							✓		3
Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts	✓	✓	✓*	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	8*
Rhode Island	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
South Carolina	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	7
Tennessee	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Texas	✓								✓		2
Utah	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	6
Vermont	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Virginia VPI	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	5
Virginia Mixed Delivery	✓	✓						✓		✓	4
Washington ECEAP	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Washington TK	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	6
West Virginia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Wisconsin		✓	✓								2
TOTAL	63	60	31	47	20	19	49	51	43	43	
Indiana†	✓	✓									2
Guam	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		6

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

† Indiana's state-funded early childhood education program is similar to state-funded preschool in other states. However, because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility, the program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program. Indiana program information is reported here but not in national totals or rankings.

Note: A red checkmark indicates that the benchmark is newly met due to a policy change.

TABLE 6: STATE PRE-K RESOURCES 2023-2024

STATE	Resource rank based on state spending	State \$ per child enrolled in preschool	Change in total state per child spending from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 Adjusted dollars	Total state preschool spending in 2023-2024	Change in total state spending from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 Adjusted dollars
District of Columbia	1	\$23,785	\$1,688	\$314,419,667	\$31,820,962
Oregon	2	\$18,637	\$2,585	\$234,774,788	\$46,644,445
New Jersey	3	\$17,911	\$1,690	\$1,108,123,000	\$161,011,555
California	4	\$15,192	\$515	\$3,840,830,368	\$656,366,415
New Mexico	5	\$13,227	\$5,258	\$212,888,058	\$107,488,625
Washington	6	\$12,808	\$927	\$279,381,146	\$29,262,249
Michigan	7	\$12,761	\$965	\$524,720,000	\$74,842,159
Delaware	8	\$11,753	\$2,570	\$14,550,750	\$5,790,112
Maryland	9	\$10,977	\$3,979	\$361,918,293	\$138,649,029
Nevada	10	\$9,703	\$282	\$34,987,861	\$11,615,598
Rhode Island	11	\$9,489	\$2,402	\$22,430,859	\$5,679,404
Connecticut	12	\$9,194	Not reported	\$113,392,552	Not reported
Vermont***	13	\$8,632	\$429	\$71,825,895	\$3,464,516
Pennsylvania	14	\$8,336	-\$55	\$460,009,750	\$15,601,907
Arizona	15	\$7,972	\$2,585	\$50,404,480	\$18,334,868
West Virginia	16	\$7,903	\$885	\$109,570,771	\$13,205,354
Hawaii	17	\$7,398	-\$3,226	\$7,590,165	\$111,201
Alabama	18	\$7,368	-\$24	\$181,550,866	\$8,667,284
North Carolina	19	\$7,117	\$478	\$194,318,020	\$23,807,791
Alaska	20	\$6,936	\$2,150	\$9,134,365	\$4,156,841
Minnesota	21	\$6,868	\$964	\$54,036,950	\$7,992,761
Kentucky	22	\$6,598	\$861	\$130,218,152	\$18,222,436
Georgia	23	\$6,400	\$782	\$457,779,908	\$45,050,454
Maine	24	\$6,338	\$1,230	\$40,313,880	\$8,456,798
New York	25	\$6,285	\$215	\$999,114,327	\$55,046,901
Illinois	26	\$6,171	\$793	\$508,924,188	\$72,353,983
Virginia	27	\$6,119	\$338	\$152,943,300	\$13,223,463
North Dakota	28	\$6,118	\$1,365	\$5,481,515	\$2,919,855
Colorado	29	\$5,722	\$2,141	\$301,057,683	\$224,638,777
Louisiana	30	\$5,676	-\$210	\$110,765,377	\$2,127,339
Arkansas	31	\$5,675	-\$2,564	\$115,274,454	-\$43,325,038
Oklahoma	32	\$5,133	\$359	\$197,385,755	\$11,288,674
Tennessee	33	\$4,902	\$103	\$86,437,438	\$835,061
Missouri	34	\$4,844	\$532	\$42,609,450	\$15,120,955
Texas**	35	\$4,682	\$468	\$1,061,419,621	\$125,267,307
Kansas	36	\$4,562	\$399	\$110,559,369	\$9,357,190
Mississippi	37	\$4,450	\$1,185	\$31,794,188	\$14,395,473
South Carolina	38	\$4,255	\$375	\$115,624,307	\$13,581,197
Ohio	39	\$4,250	\$270	\$119,612,000	\$47,969,063
Wisconsin****	40	\$3,812	\$0	\$169,270,437	-\$1,871,466
Iowa*	41	\$3,735	\$49	\$96,606,841	\$746,282
Utah	42	\$3,326	\$244	\$6,688,608	\$564,135
Massachusetts	43	\$2,853	\$341	\$100,292,048	\$17,227,034
Florida	44	\$2,838	-\$289	\$433,804,469	-\$52,952,921
Nebraska	45	\$2,225	-\$99	\$29,435,102	-\$1,232,023
50 states + DC		\$7,888	\$675	\$13,624,271,021	\$1,937,388,530
Indiana†	Work Requirement	\$10,023	\$5,082	\$79,665,126	\$48,876,594
Guam		\$9,314	\$1,184	\$465,712	\$2,310
Idaho	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Montana	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
New Hampshire	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
South Dakota	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Wyoming	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

* 2,325 children with instructional IEPs were served in Iowa's SWVPP program but were funded by sources not reported by the state. Similar to prior years, these children were removed from the per-child spending calculations.

** Texas includes 21,650 Non-ADA eligible children in their enrollment total. These children are removed from state funding per child calculations.

*** Vermont could not separate state, local, and federal spending. These were estimated based on K-12 spending percentages.

**** Wisconsin could not report pre-K spending for 2023-2024. It is estimated based on 2022-2023 reported spending.

† Indiana's state-funded early childhood education program is similar to state-funded preschool in other states. However, because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility, the program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program. Indiana program information is reported here but not in national totals or rankings.

For details about how these figures were calculated, see the Methodology section and Roadmap to the State Profile Pages.

TABLE 7: ALL-REPORTED PRE-K RESOURCES 2023-2024

STATE	Resource rank based on all-reported spending	All-reported \$ per child enrolled in preschool	State reported non-state funds	State \$ per child enrolled in preschool	Local \$ per child enrolled in preschool	Federal \$ per child enrolled in preschool	Total all-reported preschool spending
District of Columbia	1	\$23,785	No	\$23,785	\$0	\$0	\$314,419,667
Oregon	2	\$18,637	No	\$18,637	\$0	\$0	\$234,774,788
New Jersey	3	\$17,911	No	\$17,911	\$0	\$0	\$1,108,123,000
Maryland	4	\$17,262	Yes	\$10,977	\$6,285	\$0	\$569,159,141
California	5	\$15,421	Yes	\$15,192	\$7	\$223	\$3,898,876,391
New Mexico	6	\$13,227	No	\$13,227	\$0	\$0	\$212,888,058
Washington	7	\$13,013	Yes	\$12,808	\$205	\$0	\$283,853,445
Michigan	8	\$12,761	No	\$12,761	\$0	\$0	\$524,720,000
Kentucky	9	\$12,673	Yes	\$6,598	\$3,106	\$2,970	\$250,130,532
Nebraska	10	\$12,156	Yes	\$2,225	\$4,539	\$5,392	\$160,850,738
West Virginia	11	\$11,833	Yes	\$7,903	\$5	\$3,925	\$164,054,009
Delaware	12	\$11,753	No	\$11,753	\$0	\$0	\$14,550,750
Oklahoma	13	\$11,103	Yes	\$5,133	\$4,409	\$1,562	\$427,001,401
Maine	14	\$10,714	Yes	\$6,338	\$4,377	\$0	\$68,153,508
Arkansas	15	\$10,442	Yes	\$5,675	\$3,463	\$1,304	\$212,079,785
Vermont***	16	\$10,115	Yes	\$8,632	\$192	\$1,290	\$84,164,751
Alabama	17	\$10,063	Yes	\$7,368	\$2,695	\$0	\$247,950,361
Rhode Island	18	\$10,039	Yes	\$9,489	\$0	\$551	\$23,732,799
Mississippi	19	\$9,753	Yes	\$4,450	\$3,212	\$2,091	\$69,683,209
Virginia	20	\$9,751	Yes	\$6,119	\$2,821	\$810	\$243,698,805
Nevada	21	\$9,703	No	\$9,703	\$0	\$0	\$34,987,861
North Carolina	22	\$9,394	Yes	\$7,117	\$2,133	\$144	\$256,490,779
Connecticut	23	\$9,194	No	\$9,194	\$0	\$0	\$113,392,552
Pennsylvania	24	\$8,336	No	\$8,336	\$0	\$0	\$460,009,750
Illinois	25	\$8,133	Yes	\$6,171	\$1,962	\$0	\$670,768,028
Arizona	26	\$7,972	No	\$7,972	\$0	\$0	\$50,404,480
Hawaii	27	\$7,398	No	\$7,398	\$0	\$0	\$7,590,165
Alaska	28	\$6,959	Yes	\$6,936	\$0	\$23	\$9,164,365
Wisconsin****	29	\$6,918	Yes	\$3,812	\$3,107	\$0	\$307,248,552
Minnesota	30	\$6,868	No	\$6,868	\$0	\$0	\$54,036,950
Georgia	31	\$6,400	No	\$6,400	\$0	\$0	\$457,779,908
New York	32	\$6,285	No	\$6,285	\$0	\$0	\$999,114,327
Tennessee	33	\$6,270	Yes	\$4,902	\$1,368	\$0	\$110,558,090
North Dakota	34	\$6,118	No	\$6,118	\$0	\$0	\$5,481,515
Massachusetts	35	\$6,033	Yes	\$2,853	\$2,695	\$484	\$212,071,280
Colorado	36	\$5,722	No	\$5,722	\$0	\$0	\$301,057,683
Louisiana	37	\$5,676	No	\$5,676	\$0	\$0	\$110,765,377
Utah	38	\$4,973	Yes	\$3,326	\$0	\$1,647	\$10,000,008
Missouri	39	\$4,844	No	\$4,844	\$0	\$0	\$42,609,450
Texas**	40	\$4,767	Yes	\$4,682	\$0	\$85	\$1,080,697,989
Kansas	41	\$4,562	No	\$4,562	\$0	\$0	\$110,559,369
South Carolina	42	\$4,534	Yes	\$4,255	\$0	\$279	\$123,195,310
Ohio	43	\$4,250	No	\$4,250	\$0	\$0	\$119,612,000
Iowa*	44	\$3,878	Yes	\$3,735	\$143	\$0	\$100,296,902
Florida	45	\$2,856	Yes	\$2,838	\$0	\$18	\$436,562,687
50 states + DC		\$8,857	Yes	\$7,888	\$721	\$248	\$15,297,320,514
Indiana†	Work Requirement	\$11,986	Yes	\$10,023	\$0	\$1,962	\$95,262,478
Guam		\$9,314	No	\$9,314	\$0	\$0	\$465,712
Idaho	No program	\$0	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Montana	No program	\$0	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
New Hampshire	No program	\$0	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
South Dakota	No program	\$0	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Wyoming	No program	\$0	NA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

* 2,325 children with instructional IEPs were served in Iowa's SWVPP program but were funded by sources not reported by the state. Similar to prior years, these children were removed from the per-child spending calculations.

** Texas includes 21,650 Non-ADA eligible children in their enrollment total. These children are removed from state funding per child calculations.

***Vermont could not separate state, local, and federal spending. These were estimated based on K-12 spending percentages.

**** Wisconsin could not report pre-K spending for 2023-2024. It is estimated based on 2022-2023 reported spending.

† Indiana's state-funded early childhood education program is similar to state-funded preschool in other states. However, because it has a parent work or education requirement for eligibility, the program does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program. Indiana program information is reported here but not in national totals or rankings.

For details about how these figures were calculated, see the Methodology section and Roadmap to the State Profile Pages.