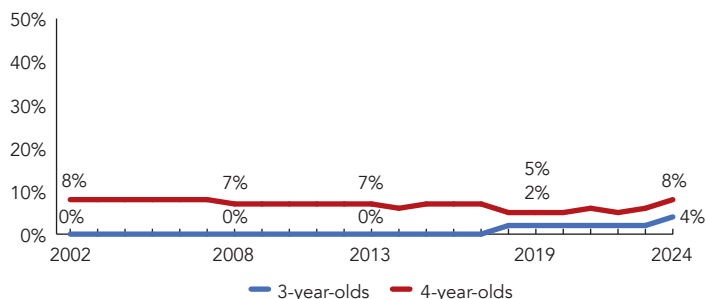
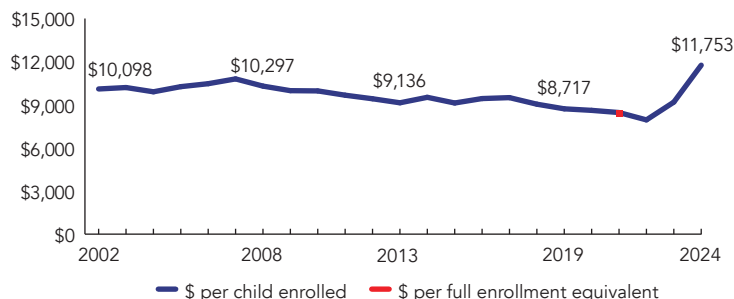


Delaware

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2024 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

During the 2023-2024 school year, Delaware preschool enrolled 1,238 children, an increase of 284 from the prior year. State spending totaled \$14,550,750, up \$5,790,112 (66%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child averaged \$11,753 in 2023-2024, up \$2,570 from 2022-2023, adjusted for inflation. Full-day preschool seats are funded at \$14,500 and half-day seats are funded at \$7,250. Delaware met 9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

The State-funded Early Care and Education Program (SFECEP) blends the Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) and the Redding Consortium funding streams, both of which are state funding streams. In 2023-2024, children under three years old became eligible to participate in Delaware's Early Care and Education Program (SFECEP), as well as a new pilot including one Family Child Care Provider, though it was not included in this report because it was serving an infant. A revised Quality Improvement System was launched July of 2023 with state funded programs receiving targeted support in the form of training, coaching, and technical assistance. In winter 2023, the ECEP went out to Request for Proposal (RFP). Programs needed to plan for potential changes to their state contract and programming during the 2022-2023 school year, in anticipation of program changes outlined in the RFP.

BACKGROUND

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

Originally modeled after the federal Head Start program, SFECEP requires participating programs to follow a statewide policies and procedures manual with required standards. Per these standards, ten percent of enrollment slots are reserved for children with disabilities; the majority of participating children must live in families with incomes at or below 100% FPL. Up to 35% of enrolled children may live in households up to 130% FPL.

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

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
42	25

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
8	12

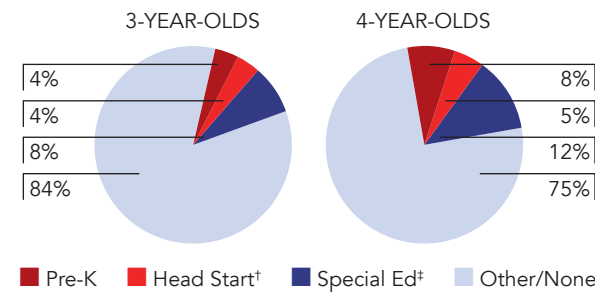
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
9*

DELAWARE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	1,238
School districts that offer state program	47%
Income requirement	100% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	3.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	170 days/year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	2,520
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	1,013
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	DE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (public); At least AA with 50% BA (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Working towards CDA or equivalent	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	90 hours/5 years (public teachers); 18 hours/year (nonpublic teachers & assistants); 15 hours/year (public assistants); PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	17 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	2:17 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *

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

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

9*

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$14,550,750
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$11,753
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$11,753

* 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

