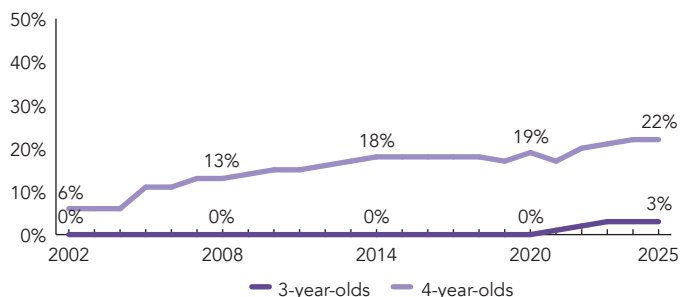
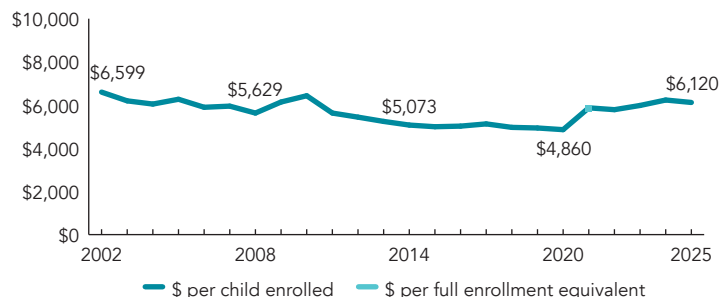


# Virginia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2025 DOLLARS)



## OVERVIEW

During the 2024-2025 school year, Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) enrolled a total of 24,425 children, an increase in VPI enrollment of 1,387 from the prior year. VPI spending totaled \$149,480,336, up \$25,391,932 (20%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$6,120 in 2024-2025, up \$734 from 2023-2024, adjusted for inflation. VPI met 5 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

Previously, Virginia's Mixed Delivery program was included as a second state-funded preschool program in Virginia. Beginning in 2024-2025, Mixed Delivery Implemented a parental work related activity requirement and no longer meets NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program. NIEER included Virginia's Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) in the Yearbook for the first time this year. Although CCSP does not meet NIEER's definition of a state-funded preschool program, it is an important component of Virginia's comprehensive early childhood system. Both CCSP and Mixed Delivery are described in the Yearbook but are not included in the enrollment or spending rankings, which reflect only VPI.

## WHAT'S NEW

In 2023, Governor Youngkin introduced the *Building Blocks for Virginia Families* initiative and proposed a state budget that demonstrated a commitment to sustaining access to early care and education by using state general funds (SGF) to offset the expiration of federal COVID-19 relief funding. These historic state investments in the FY25-26 biennial budget ensured that no children lost services following the end of pandemic-era funding. The budget appropriated \$366 million in state general funds in FY25 and \$461 million in FY26 to support CCSP, Mixed Delivery, and VPI. As a result of these investments in Virginia's public-private early childhood system, more children have access to publicly funded early learning slots than ever before. In addition, VPI reimbursement rates were rebenchmarked beginning in the 2024-2025 school year to better reflect current costs of care and quality standards in school-based settings. This rebenchmarking process will occur again in advance of the 2026-2027 school year.

## BACKGROUND

The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) began in 1995 to serve at-risk 4-year-olds not enrolled in existing preschool programs. During the 2024-2025 school year, VPI programs operated in 98% of eligible school divisions. Programs are required to operate for a minimum of three hours per day, though 93% of children attend full-day programs throughout the school year. VPI is funded by an annual legislative appropriation of state general funds and a required local match based on the local composite index. The local match is capped at half the per-pupil amount. Funding for VPI is available to school divisions where there are at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds not served by Head Start. The first and second pages of Virginia's profile page focus only on VPI. State rankings on this page reflect only the VPI program.

(continued on page 155)

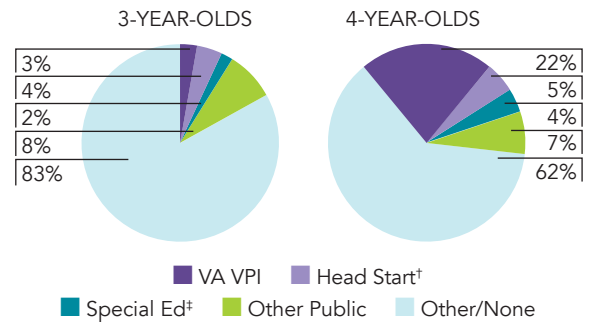
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
31	26	28	18	5

# VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE (VPI)

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	24,425
School districts that offer state program.....	98% (school divisions)
Income requirement.....	200% FPL
Minimum hours of operation.....	3 hours/day (half-day), 5.5 hours/day (full-day); 5 days/week
Operating schedule.....	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	11,504
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	9,080
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

## PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in Other Public.  
‡ Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	VA VPI 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 (public); HSD (nonpublic)	<b>BA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd (public); None (nonpublic)	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD (public); None (nonpublic)	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/school year	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; Coaching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more; Referrals not required	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	<b>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

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## RESOURCES

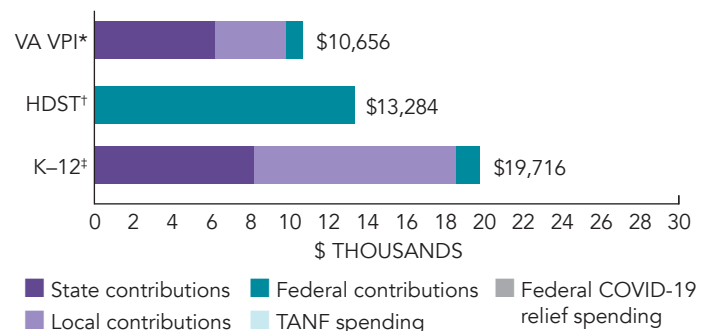
Total state pre-K spending.....	\$149,480,336
Local match required?.....	Yes
State Head Start funding.....	\$0
State spending per child enrolled.....	\$6,120
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$10,656

\* 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

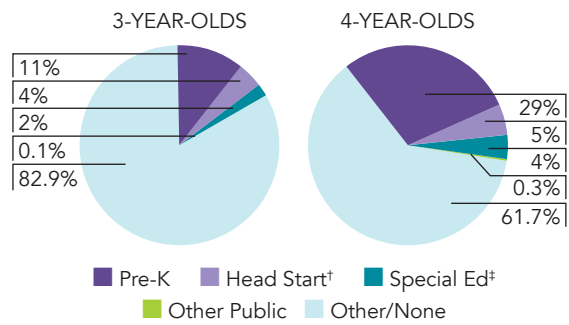


# VIRGINIA STATE OVERVIEW (VPI, MIXED DELIVERY, & CCSP)

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	38,557
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	11,504
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	9,080
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

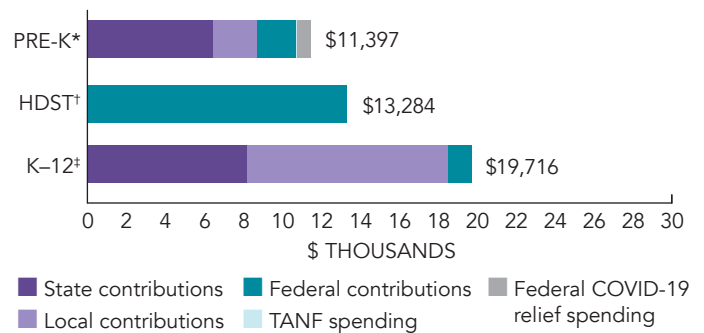


† Some Head Start children may also be counted in CCSP.  
‡ Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$274,936,866
State Head Start spending .....	\$0
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$7,131
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$11,397

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 WITH MIXED DELIVERY & CCSP		RESOURCE RANKINGS WITH MIXED DELIVERY & CCSP		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
26	17	20	16	3.4

The Mixed Delivery program began during the 2016-2017 school year and was included in the State of Preschool Yearbook for the first time in 2022. This program is administered by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) as a public/private partnership and provides publicly funded early childhood care and education (ECCE) services in licensed, non-school-based and non-faith-based private ECCE settings. Eligible children are those who have been identified as at-risk for entering kindergarten without the necessary social and academic skills for success. The Mixed Delivery program fully covers the estimated cost of quality for full-day, year-round services.

Virginia also provides substantial support for the state’s Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP). During the 2024–2025 school year, state funding for CCSP was approximately \$200 million, with about 35% of expenditures supporting preschool-aged children. Children are eligible for CCSP if their family income is below 85% of State Median Income (SMI). Subsidized children are served across a diverse range of settings, including Head Start programs, private child care centers, faith-based programs (both with and without religious content), and family child care homes.

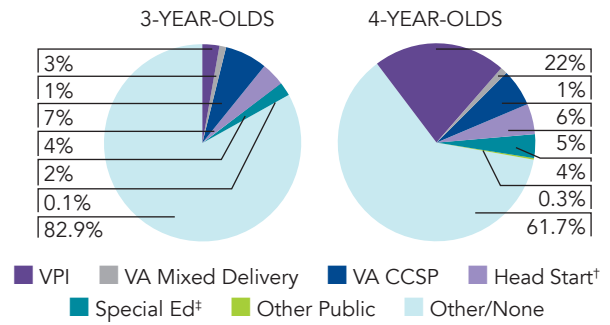
Mixed Delivery and CCSP have a parent work or education requirement and do not fully meet NIEER’s definition of a state-funded preschool program. This page shows the full Virginia ECE overview including VPI, Mixed Delivery, and CCSP. Rankings on this page reflect all three programs.

# VIRGINIA EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION MIXED DELIVERY

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	1,989
School districts that offer state program.....	54% (localities)
Income requirement.....	200% FPL
Minimum hours of operation.....	10 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule.....	Full calendar year

## PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in CCSP.  
‡ Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	VA Mixed Delivery 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	None	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	None	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	16 hours/school year	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; Coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	30 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Immunizations, full physical exam; Referrals not required	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.

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## RESOURCES

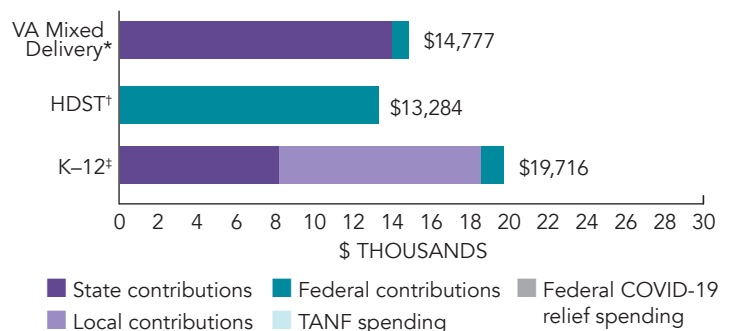
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$27,657,187
Local match required?.....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$13,905
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$14,777

\* 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

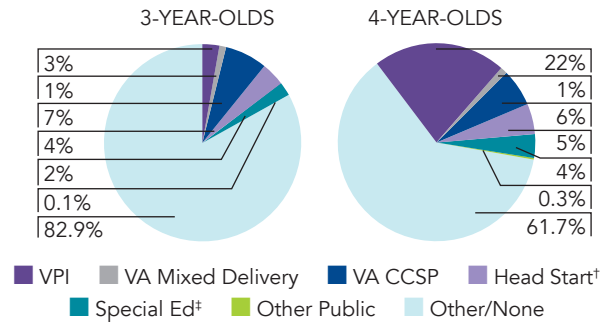


# VIRGINIA CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM (CCSP)

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	12,143
School districts that offer state program.....	100% (localities)
Income requirement.....	85% SMI
Minimum hours of operation.....	Determined locally
Operating schedule.....	Full calendar year

## PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in CCSP.  
‡ Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	VA CCSP REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	ELDS not required to be used	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	None	<b>BA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	None	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	16 hours/school year	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; Coaching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	30 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Immunizations, full physical exam; Referrals not required	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	<b>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

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## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$97,799,343
Local match required?.....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$8,054
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$12,334

\* 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

