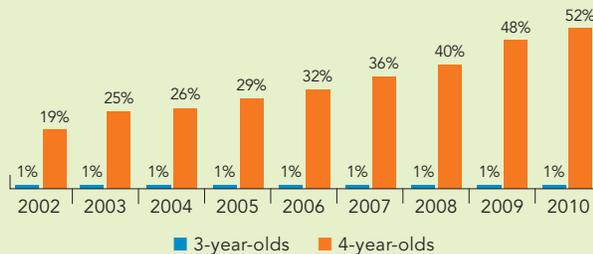


# Wisconsin

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2010 DOLLARS)



Since Wisconsin became a state in 1848, there has been a commitment to provide free education to 4-year-old children in its constitution. The Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) program was established in 1873 and continues to operate today, despite a suspension of state funding from 1957 to 1984. Public schools receive 4K funds directly, though they may also subcontract with private child care centers, Head Start agencies, or other community-based programs. Half-day 4K slots are funded at 50 percent of the standard per-pupil K–12 state funding amount, though programs may receive 60 percent if parent support programs are provided.

Programs participating in Four-Year-Old Kindergarten are encouraged to follow the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, though there is no requirement that they do so. Enrollment has increased over the past few years thanks to state efforts to open new 4K programs in districts that did not previously offer programs and by increasing enrollment in districts with existing programs. Thirty-six additional districts began offering 4K in the 2008-2009 program year, and as of the 2009-2010 school year 77 percent of elementary school districts provide 4K. This program was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes in the 2003-2004 year.

The 4K program continues to expand in the state, with particular interest in providing services in diverse settings. Recently, there have been an increasing number of partnerships between Head Start grantees and local school districts collaborating to implement 4K. The state began offering start-up grants to encourage further collaborations during the 2008-2009 school year. In the 2009-2010 school year, 102 school districts collaborated with Head Start and/or child care programs to provide preschool education services.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Head Start program is a separate state-funded initiative that offers comprehensive early childhood education for 3- and 4-year-olds who are from low-income families or who have disabilities. Federal Head Start grantees are able to enhance services and increase access using supplemental state funding. Programs that participate in Wisconsin Head Start are required to follow federal Head Start Performance Standards. Efforts have been made to align Head Start technical assistance and training with other professional development efforts at both the state and local levels.

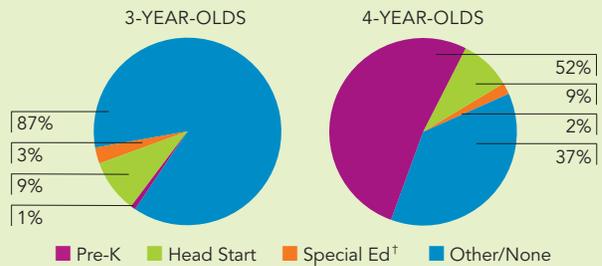
The recently developed Governor’s Advisory Council on Early Education was formed under the Head Start Reauthorization Act to raise awareness about preschool education and encourage agencies to work together. Among the council’s responsibilities are identifying opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination as well as developing recommendations for: increasing enrollment in existing early childhood programs, creating a unified data collection system, enhancing statewide professional development and career advancement, and improving early learning standards.

The first two pages of Wisconsin’s profile give an overview of the state’s overall commitment and contributions to state-funded preschool education programs, including enrollment and state spending for both 4K and Wisconsin Head Start. The third page presents specific details on the 4K program, and the fourth page focuses exclusively on the Wisconsin Head Start program.

## STATE OVERVIEW

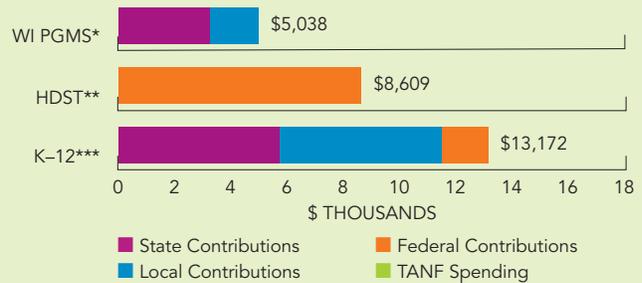
Total state program enrollment.....	39,290
Total state spending .....	\$128,960,062
State Head Start spending .....	\$6,960,062
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$3,282
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$5,038

### STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



<sup>†</sup> This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

### 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 for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

\*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '09-'10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

#### ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS

3-YEAR-OLDS

6

20

#### RESOURCES RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING

ALL REPORTED SPENDING

29

19

# WISCONSIN FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	38,071
School districts that offer state program .....	77%
Income requirement .....	None
Hours of operation .....	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment .....	8,962
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	12,783
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	1,160 <sup>2</sup>

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	License in ECE Birth-age 8, EC Birth-age 11	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD/GED <sup>3</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service.....	6 credit hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds.....	Determined locally		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds.....	Determined locally		
Screening/referral .....	Health and developmental; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Depend on length of program day <sup>5</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

**5**

## RESOURCES

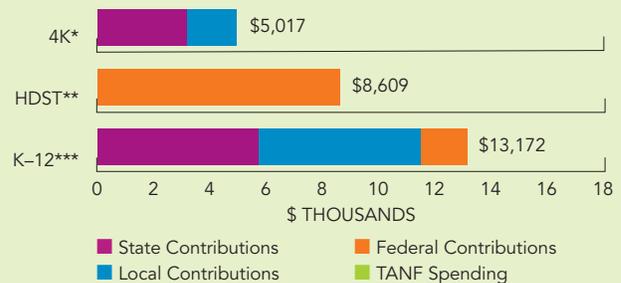
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$122,000,000
Local match required?.....	Yes, local share of school revenue generated through property tax
State Head Start spending .....	\$6,960,062
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$3,205
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$5,017

\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '09-'10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



<sup>1</sup> Most programs are part-day 4-5 days per week, but some districts may offer the program full day for 2-3 days per week.

<sup>2</sup> Wisconsin did not break this figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age breakdowns used in the Access pie chart were estimated, using proportions of federal Head Start enrollees in each age category.

<sup>3</sup> Assistant teachers in public settings can meet one of three requirements: at least two years of higher education, an associate (or higher) degree, or meet a rigorous standard of quality through a state or local academic assessment regardless of degree. The requirement for assistant teachers in nonpublic settings reflects child care licensing regulations. School districts that are Head Start grantees may require assistant teachers to have an AA and assistant teacher license.

<sup>4</sup> State law supports vision, hearing, and general health screenings prior to enrollment. When 4K uses a community approach with Head Start, screenings are required. Support services include parent involvement activities, health services for children, referral to social services, and access to a school nurse, psychologist, and social worker. The number of annual parent conferences or home visits is determined locally.

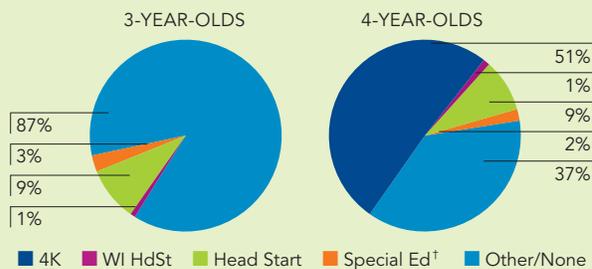
<sup>5</sup> If a school-based program operates longer than 2.5 hours, it is required to provide a meal or snack through the school nutrition program. Programs being implemented in child care or Head Start must follow applicable requirements.

# WISCONSIN HEAD START STATE SUPPLEMENT

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	1,219 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program .....	97% (federal Head Start grantees)
Income requirement .....	90% of children must be at or below 100% FPL <sup>2</sup>
Hours of operation .....	Determined locally <sup>3</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Determined locally <sup>3</sup>
Special education enrollment .....	8,962
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	12,783
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	1,160 <sup>1</sup>

## STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA (public); CDA (nonpublic) <sup>4</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	License in ECE Birth–age 8, EC Birth–age 11 (public); Meets CDA requirements (nonpublic) <sup>4</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	15 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	17		
4-year-olds .....	20		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	2:17		
4-year-olds .....	1:10		
Screening/referral .....	Vision, hearing, health, dental, and support services developmental; and support services <sup>5</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Lunch and snack <sup>6</sup>	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Other monitoring <sup>7</sup>	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

**7**

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$6,960,062 <sup>8</sup>
Local match required? .....	No
State Head Start spending .....	\$6,960,062 <sup>8</sup>
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$5,710
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$5,710

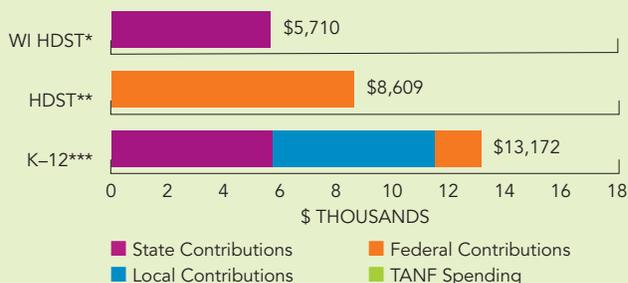
\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

\*\* Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

\*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '09-'10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

## SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin did not break this figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age breakdowns used in the Access pie chart were also estimated, using proportions of federal Head Start enrollees in each age category.

<sup>2</sup> State pre-K children must meet the federal Head Start income guidelines. Effective December 2007, 35 percent of the enrollment may be children whose family incomes are between 100 and 130 percent FPL after priority is given to children at or below 100 percent FPL.

<sup>3</sup> As required by federal Head Start Performance Standards, programs must operate a minimum of 3.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, and 32 weeks per year, unless approved as a federal Head Start alternative. Programs may partner with child care or 4K to extend hours, days, or weeks.

<sup>4</sup> School districts that are federal Head Start grantees may require lead teachers to have a BA and appropriate licensure. Head Start requires teachers to have at least a CDA.

<sup>5</sup> Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and other support services in accordance with Head Start performance standards.

<sup>6</sup> The federal Head Start Performance Standards require that part-day programs provide children with at least one-third of their daily nutritional needs, and full-day programs provide one-half to two-thirds of daily nutritional needs, depending on the length of the program day. Breakfast may also be required depending on the hours of the program.

<sup>7</sup> The Head Start State Supplement is provided to existing federal Head Start grantees who are monitored by federal Head Start monitoring systems. The state itself does not conduct monitoring of these programs. Information such as grant applications, budget reports, sections of the federal application, and submission of the Head Start PIR are included.

<sup>8</sup> All spending through this initiative is directed toward Head Start programs.