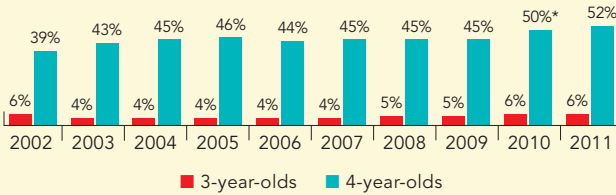
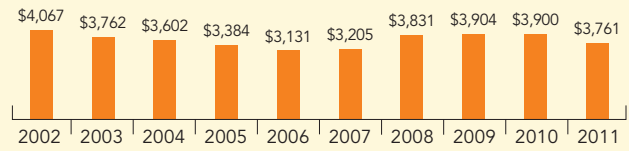


Texas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2011 DOLLARS)



The Texas Public School Prekindergarten initiative was launched in 1985 to provide half-day preschool education services to at-risk 4-year-olds. School districts must offer the initiative if they serve 15 or more eligible 4-year-olds. Eligibility is based on meeting one of a number of risk factors: qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch, limited English proficiency, homelessness or unstable housing, participation in foster care, or a parent on active military duty or who has been injured or killed on duty. Non-eligible children may enroll at a district's discretion if parents pay tuition. Some districts may offer the program to 3-year-olds using additional state and district funds.

Funding is distributed directly to school districts, though these districts are encouraged to partner with licensed child care centers and Head Start programs to provide preschool services. State and local funds support the Texas Public School Prekindergarten program. The initiative is part of the K-12 system through the Foundation School Program, which offers funding to support half-day services, though programs can apply for full-day through the competitive Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program. Expansion grants usually prioritize school districts that have low third grade reading scores.

The Texas Education Code amended its reporting requirement in the 2007-2008 school year to work with the Texas School Ready Certification System (SRCS), a quality rating system meant to improve the school readiness of pre-K students. The SRCS is available across settings, including public preschool programs, Head Start agencies, and both for-profit and nonprofit licensed child care centers. Additionally, online training is now available on the Texas Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and its contractor conducted a comprehensive needs assessment to identify effective outreach strategies and partnerships. As a result, a toolkit was developed to help districts assist families in enrolling eligible children in prekindergarten programs, including resources to help districts notify eligible families about free local prekindergarten programs. The toolkit is available online in English and Spanish.

The restructured Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program became the Prekindergarten Early Start (PKES) grant in September 2009. Eligible school districts and charter schools use PKES grant funds to prepare preschoolers to enter kindergarten at or above grade levels. Grantees must engage in continual monitoring of student programs in the classroom as well as professional development and must implement high-quality, developmentally appropriate curricula. Programs are required to participate in the School Readiness Certification Systems. They must also develop a School Readiness Integration Plan, which is a collaboration among multiple partners, including prekindergarten and early education providers as well as local workforce development boards, to share resources across delivery settings. Funds were not appropriated for this initiative for the 2011-2012 program year.

For the first time, state spending figures include spending for all aspects of program: Foundation School Program, Prekindergarten Early Start Grant, and Texas School Ready. Spending from the 2009-2010 school year reported here also includes all three funding sources.

* Percentages served prior to 2010 are not perfectly comparable to 2010 and 2011. The latter figures use data from the 2010 Census, whereas the earlier figures are based on population estimates.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
8	12

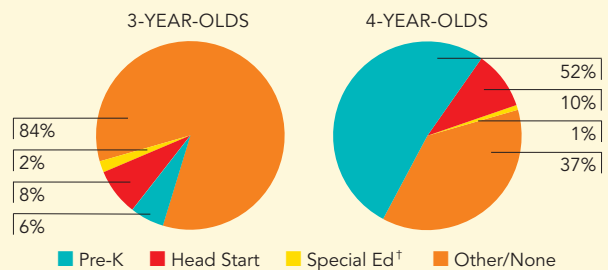
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
22	27

TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	224,306
School districts that offer state program	83%
Income requirement	185% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	3 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	23,556
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	67,484
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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.

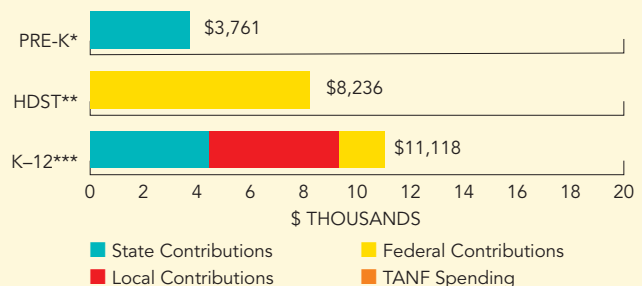
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?	TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET 4
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher specialized training	Generalist (EC-Grade 6) Teaching Certificate ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher in-service	150 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds	No limit ⁴			
4-year-olds	No limit ⁴			
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds	No limit			
4-year-olds	No limit			
Screening/referral	Health ⁵	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁶	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Monitoring	None	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>	

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$843,723,501 ⁷
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,761 ⁷
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,761

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 2010-2011 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 '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Children may also qualify if they are homeless or have unstable housing, have a history of foster care, are eligible for TANF or other public assistance, have a parent on active military duty or who was injured or killed on active duty, or have non-English speaking family members.

² School districts that receive Prekindergarten Expansion Grant funding are required to offer 6 hours of services per day. Foundation funding covers half-day services only.

³ The Generalist Teaching Certificate was extended to sixth grade in May 2009. The Generalist EC-4 credential was discontinued after August 2010.

⁴ Prekindergarten classes no larger than 15 (for 3-year-olds) or 18 (for 4-year-olds) are preferred but not required.

⁵ Some support services are required, but specific services are determined locally.

⁶ School districts are not required to serve meals to prekindergarten students. However, most school districts do serve either breakfast or lunch, and some offer both meals. All districts offering full-day programs provide lunch.

⁷ For the first time, this figure includes spending for all aspects of program: Foundation School Program, Prekindergarten Early Start Grant, and Texas School Ready. Reported spending from the 2009-2010 school year has been increased retroactively to also include all three funding sources.