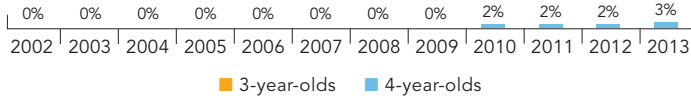
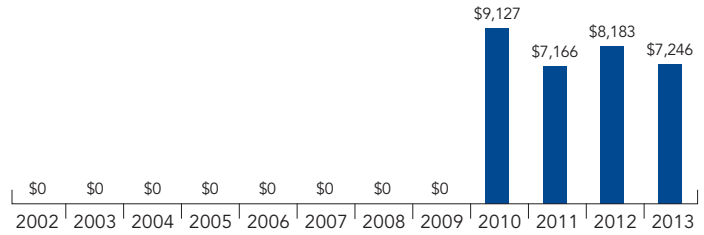


# Alaska

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2013 DOLLARS)



Since 2009-2010, six school districts in Alaska have offered the Alaska Pilot-Kindergarten Project (AP3) for 4-year-olds. Programs were funded through competitive grants. A majority of programs operate in combined public school and Head Start programs. Grantees offer half-day programs, as well as outreach to families preferring in-home care for preschoolers. Funded public schools may subcontract with faith-based settings, family child care centers, Head Start programs, and private child care centers.

The federal Head Start guidelines are similar to Alaska’s pre-K program eligibility requirements, with eligibility based on family income at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. If space is available, programs can take a maximum of 35 percent of children from families between 100 and 130 percent FPL.

Renamed the Alaska Pre-Kindergarten Program, the pre-K program shifted from pilot status in the 2011-2012 school year, to a scheduled endowment change and re-competition for state grants in fiscal year 2013. The state pre-K program has a total budget of \$2.5 million and serves children in eight districts for the 2012-2013 school year. An increase of \$800,000 allowed for expansion to eight programs serving 345 in the 2012-2013 school year, this increase was removed as of FY 14. At this time, the future of program funding beyond the end of fiscal year 2014 is undecided.

Teaching Strategies Gold assessment was piloted as an assessment by the state three times per year, in two-thirds of the programs, during the 2011-2012 school year. It will be required for all grantees in the next competition. CLASS was also piloted in some classrooms in 2012-2013, and will be used in all classrooms next year. Alaska is currently in the process of having an independent alignment of the Early Learning Guidelines and the new state standards.

An evaluation of the AP3 program was completed in the 2010-2011 school year, examining process quality as well as program impact and child results, based on pre- and post-assessments using the DIAL II, PPVT, and ECERS instruments.

Alaska has offered a supplement to federally recognized Head Start programs since the 1980s. The financial support is part of an effort to develop program quality through school readiness activities and professional improvement. The funds also allow access to additional children whenever possible.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
37	None Served

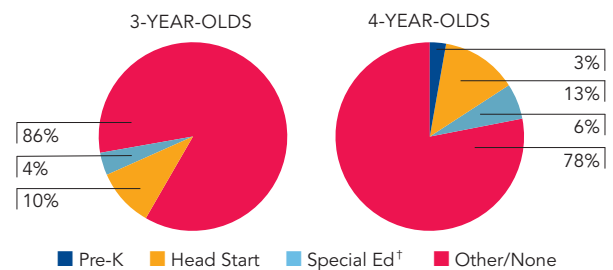
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
7	10

## ALASKA PILOT PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	345
School districts that offer state program .....	15%
Income requirement .....	130% FPL <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation .....	3 to 4 hours/day, 5 days/week <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	1,207
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	2,406
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	0

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.

### 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 <sup>3</sup>	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	ECE endorsement	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	CDA <sup>3</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	20		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	1:10		
Screening/referral .....	Vision, hearing, health, psychological/ and support services behavioral, developmental; and support services <sup>4</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Breakfast or lunch and one snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

**10**

### RESOURCES

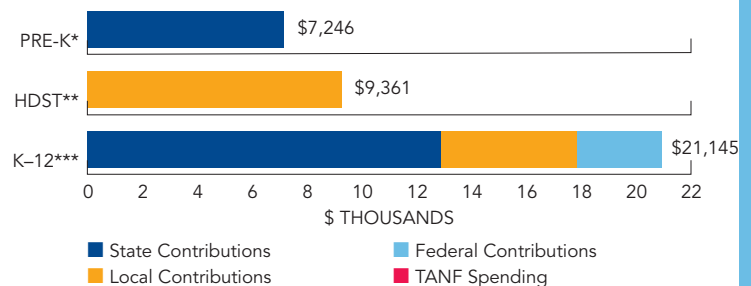
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$2,500,000
Local match required? .....	No
State Head Start spending .....	\$7,299,200 <sup>5</sup>
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$7,246
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$7,246

\* 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 2012-2013 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

\*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '12-'13 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



<sup>1</sup> Mirroring federal Head Start guidelines, up to 35 percent of 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. In addition, some communities may meet poverty of access criteria per federal Head Start regulations.

<sup>2</sup> All programs are part day and must operate for at least 3 hours per day, but cannot operate for more than 5 hours per day. Programs operate for 4 or 5 days per week, for a minimum of 14 hours per week, though the actual schedule is determined locally. Programs may partner with child care or other services to provide wrap-around care.

<sup>3</sup> Teachers must be state certified with a BA in ECE or a related field or specialized training in a related field, and assistant teachers must have a current CDA, 12 ECE credits, or an AA in ECE or with specialized training in early education or a related field.

<sup>4</sup> All programs follow state pre-elementary statute and regulations. School districts partnering with Head Start programs must follow federal Head Start requirements. Support services include parenting support or training, health services for children, and nutrition information.

<sup>5</sup> Alaska's state Head Start funds are used to enhance Head Start services and improve quality. About 63 percent of the programs are jointly operated by public schools and Head Start.