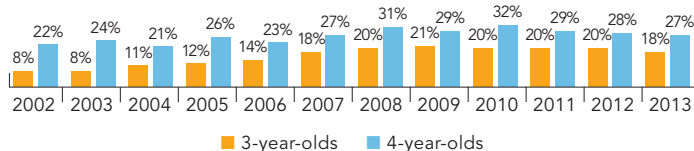
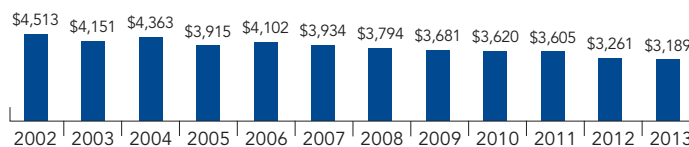


Illinois

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2013 DOLLARS)



The Prekindergarten Program for At-Risk Children was founded in 1985, in response to calls for statewide education improvement. Funding for the program has been provided through the state Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) since 1998. ECBG is used to coordinate services for at-risk infants and toddlers, offer parenting training, and support preschool education programs. The grant must use at least 11 percent of its fund to serve children age 3 or younger.

The Preschool for All initiative began in 2006, with the intention of fully funding the program by 2012, to offer preschool education to every 3- and 4-year-old in the state. Competitive grants are available to a variety of grantees, including family child care homes, public schools, Head Start programs, and private child care and faith-based centers. While the program is available in every county, funding limits do not allow the enrollment of every child whose families seek a place. The ECBG, which provides state funding for the Preschool for All 3-5 and the Prevention Initiative 0-3 programs, was reduced by \$25 million in 2012-2013, or by 8 percent across all programs. The 8 percent reduction will continue in the next program year.

Throughout the expansion phase of Preschool for All, at-risk children were the first funding priority, with at-risk status determined locally, and based on requirements recognized by districts and agencies in their funding proposals. Risk factors include low income; low parent education levels; exposure to drug or alcohol abuse in the family; developmental delays; and a history of family neglect, violence, or abuse. The second funding priority goes to programs that provide places for families earning up to four times the federal poverty level, although currently none of the programs proposing to serve children in the second priority have been funded, due to inadequate funding to serve all children in the first priority.

As of the 2009-2010 school year, Preschool for All programs were mandated to meet bilingual education requirements, including that pre-K teachers meet the appropriate requirements by July 2, 2014. Pre-K programs serving 20 or more English Language Learners (ELL) speaking the same language must provide instruction in the home language and English, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL). Centers with 19 or fewer ELLs speaking the same language use a locally determined program of instruction, which may include ESL and home language supports as needed.

A Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Stakeholder Committee was convened during the 2010-2011 school year and provided recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education on developing a comprehensive assessment procedure. The Illinois State Board of Education is developing and implementing a comprehensive kindergarten assessment process that was piloted in the 2012-2013 school year. The second phase pilot implementation in 2013-2014 doubled the number of school districts participating. Statewide implementation is planned for the 2015-2016 school year. The Desired Results Developmental Profile-School Readiness (DRDP-SR) is being adapted, piloted, field tested, and calibrated for Illinois' Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS). The Preschool for All program was assessed for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes in a three-year evaluation ending in winter 2012.

Illinois earned grants from the federal Race to the Top and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge competitions. Related changes include: implementing a quality rating and improvement system beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, including all Preschool for All programs; revising the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards to align them with Common Core State Standards and the Head Start Framework for the 2013-2014 school year; and implementing the KIDS assessment in the 2015-2016 school year.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
18	4

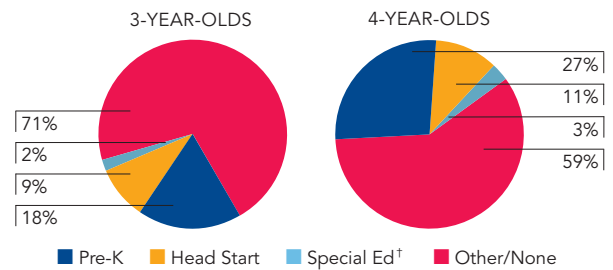
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
31	28

ILLINOIS PRESCHOOL FOR ALL

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	75,623
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	None ¹
Hours of operation	At least 2.5 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	21,916
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	33,881
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	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?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EC endorsement	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA or paraprofessional approval ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	120 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 or lower	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Snack ⁵	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

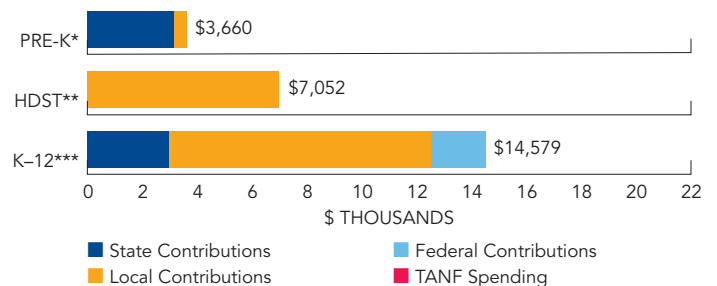
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$241,161,135
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,189
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,660

* 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



¹ Although there is not a state-specified income requirement, low income is one of the risk factors included in the weighted eligibility criteria.
² School-day classes are permissible. Most programs operate 2.5 hour sessions, but 11 percent of programs operate for a school day of 4.5 to 8 hours.
³ Assistant teachers must have an AA or paraprofessional approval. To receive paraprofessional approval, in addition to holding a high school diploma or equivalent, an individual must have completed 60 semester hours of college credit at a regionally accredited institution of higher education; or pass either the ParaPro test offered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) or Work Keys test offered by ACT, with at least the score identified by the State Board of Education in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

⁴ Support services include parent conferences and/or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.
⁵ School-day programs must provide lunch and snacks; part-day programs must provide snacks.