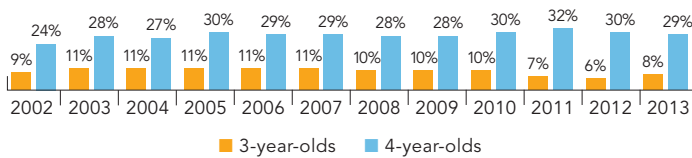
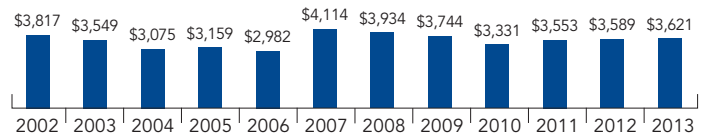


# Kentucky

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2013 DOLLARS)



In response to the Kentucky Education Reform Act, the Kentucky Preschool Program (KPP) was launched in 1990. KPP is accessible to 4-year-olds who are homeless, from low-income families, or in foster care, as well as to 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities. Income eligibility for the program was increased from 130 percent of the federal poverty line (FPL) to 150 percent of FPL in the 2006-2007 school year. If additional space is available, local districts have the option of registering additional children not meeting state income eligibility requirements using district funds, tuition, or other funds.

There were 20,817 eligible children participating in KPP in 2012-2013, including 9,661 receiving special education services, based on an averaged count between December 1 and March 1. The slight reduction in enrollment indicated for the last two years is attributed to changes in data systems more than program capacity: the introduction of the Kentucky System of Intervention (KSI), modeled from the Response to Intervention (RTI) approach, provides a more precise count of children with a recognized disability, and a modification of the electronic student information system attains a more accurate count.

Funding for the Kentucky Preschool Program is distributed to local school districts according to a funding formula, depending on the number of qualified children registered the previous year, and weighted by the appropriate per-child rate for at-risk or disability group (speech/language, mild to moderate, and severe). School districts may subcontract with Head Start, private child care centers, and special education providers to offer preschool services.

While there has not been a formal evaluation of KPP in recent years to measure program quality or effectiveness, Kentucky continues its efforts to support program quality and child outcomes. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has been identifying high-quality, state-funded preschool classrooms as Classrooms of Excellence, a practice that began in the 2006-2007 school year. As part of the KSI improvements initiated in 2011-2012, programs are able to more accurately recognize children with disabilities and offer research-based supports for any child suspected of having a disability. Following a pilot period, Kentucky applied the Preschool Program Review (P2R) statewide monitoring process in 2012-2013. The P2R requires an ECERS-R for every classroom, and district self-evaluation of the preschool standards through an online survey; as well as site visits at least once every 5 years that observe classrooms, review documentation, and interview parents, teachers, and administrators. The Early Childhood Regional Training Centers (RTCs) collaborate with KDE staff to ensure program quality assessment for the P2R process is reliable, and to offer subsequent technical assistance. In addition to P2R, the Kentucky Preschool Program participated in a statewide consolidated monitoring process of state and federal programs in 14 school districts.

KDE continued work begun in 2011 to reinforce district capacity to understand and implement Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards and support school readiness through Early Learning Leadership Networks (ELLNs). ELLNs help to guarantee that districts have knowledgeable, unified leadership teams composed of representatives from child care, Head Start, preschool, and kindergarten, to guide the professional learning and practice of all teachers, staff, and administrators.

Development of an integrated P-12 data management system aligning program and child outcome data from KPP, Head Start, and child care with the K-12 system continued in 2012-2013. Effective in the 2017-2018 school year, the kindergarten entrance age will change from October 1 to August 1, which may have future implications for KPP enrollment.

Kentucky was one of five states funded in the third round of federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge in 2013.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
16	9

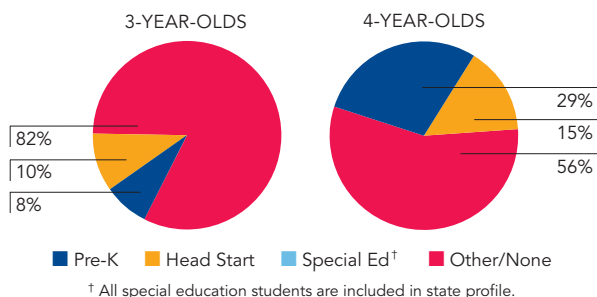
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
24	12

# KENTUCKY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	20,817 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program .....	100%
Income requirement .....	150% FPL
Hours of operation .....	2.5 hours + meal time, 4 or 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	Academic year <sup>2</sup>
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	9,990 <sup>3</sup>
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	14,244
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	0

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



## 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>4</sup> .....	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	Interdisciplinary ECE (IECE) (Birth to primary/K)	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD .....	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	28 clock hours/year .....	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 and support services .....	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services <sup>5</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Depends on length of program day	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

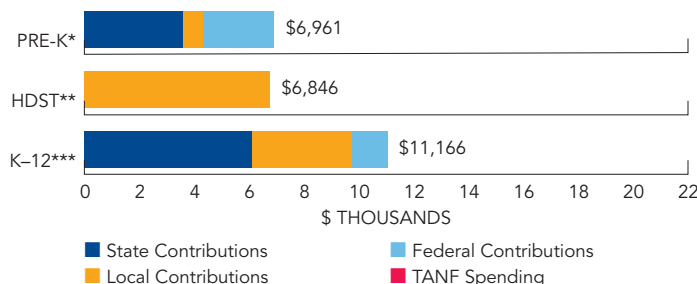
**9**

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$75,373,534
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$3,621
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$6,961

\* 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> This total recorded does not include an additional 1,691 4-year-olds who were served through tuition or district funds.  
<sup>2</sup> The preschool program may begin later and end earlier than the school year calendar, provided districts are using these instructional days for child and family activities such as screening, home visits, and other comprehensive components of the program.  
<sup>3</sup> Because the state pre-K program is interrelated with the state special education program, 9,661 of the 3- and 4-year-olds reported as having IEPs are served within KPP.

<sup>4</sup> Teachers hired as lead teachers before 2004-2005 can hold a CDA or AA in child development. These teachers are allowed to remain in their current positions but may not transfer to other districts.  
<sup>5</sup> Support services include parent education or job training, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, nutrition information, referral for social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and parent conferences or home visits.