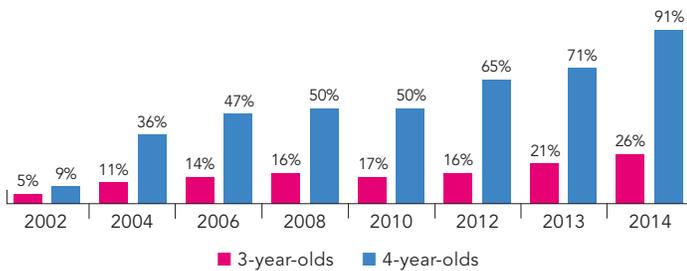
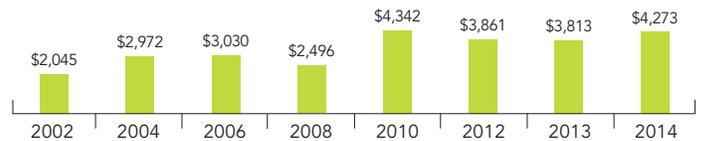


Vermont

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED*
(2014 DOLLARS)



In 1987, the Vermont Early Education Initiative (EEI) was created as an annual competitive grant program to finance early education opportunities for at-risk 3- to 5-year-olds. Eligible children must meet one of the following criteria: family income at or below 185 percent FPL; limited English proficiency; a history of mistreatment or neglect; a developmental delay; or social isolation. School districts and community early care and education programs must partner for an EEI grant, though either entity may serve as the grantee. EEI funds can be used to provide preschool education services to 3- and 4-year-olds, and so is included in this report, though it is not the states designated pre-K program.

A designated preschool program was established in 2003, allowing school districts to subsidize prekindergarten education by including 3- to 5-year-olds in their school census. The program, which was initially called the Publicly Funded Prekindergarten using Average Daily Memberships (PFP-ADM), underwent significant changes in 2007 with the passage of Vermont Prekindergarten Education-Act 62. Prior to Act 62, local agencies could include 3- to 5-year-olds in their school census, but there were few policies for implementing services. With Act 62, pre-K programs are supported through the state's Education Fund in the same way as K-12. Districts are not required to provide the programs, and child enrollment is voluntary. Roughly 80 percent of Vermont's local education agencies (LEAs) are able to provide pre-K through an arrangement of school-based programs and partnerships with private family-based or center-based providers, private preschools, and/or with Head Start programs. The act defines "publicly funded prekindergarten education" as 6 to 10 hours per week of preschool education services for children ages 3 to 5; "full-time" pre-K is 10 hours per week during the school year. Originally, the state limited the number of pre-K children a district could count in its school census. In the 2011-2012 school year, limitations were lifted in all participating towns. Act 62 requires only one teacher with ECE or ECSE educator license per center in nonpublic locations, rather than requiring one such teacher in each preschool classroom. In both public and private settings however, most classrooms do have a lead teacher with a BA and early childhood or early childhood special educator license. All programs, including those operated by public schools, are required to attain at least 4 out of 5 stars in Vermont's quality rating system, Step Ahead Recognition Systems (STARS), or to hold NAEYC accreditation.

In 2014, Vermont passed Act 166, which establishes universal access to publicly funded pre-K for all 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds who are not enrolled in Kindergarten.

The first two pages of Vermont's profile explain the state's overall commitment and contribution to preschool education with enrollment and state spending data for both initiatives. The next two pages offer precise details about each of Vermont's preschool initiatives, with the Vermont Prekindergarten Education-Act 62 program highlighted on the third page and the Vermont Early Education Initiative profiled on the fourth page.

STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS

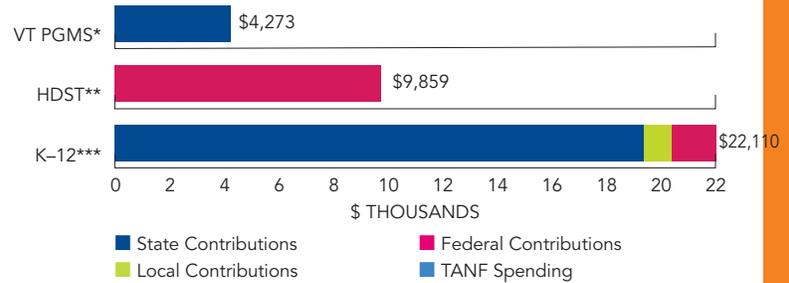
Total state program enrollment	7,255
Total state spending	\$30,999,300
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,273
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,273

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



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state 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 2013-2014 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 '13-'14 school year, unless otherwise noted.

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS

3-YEAR-OLDS

2

2

RESOURCES RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING

ALL REPORTED SPENDING

20

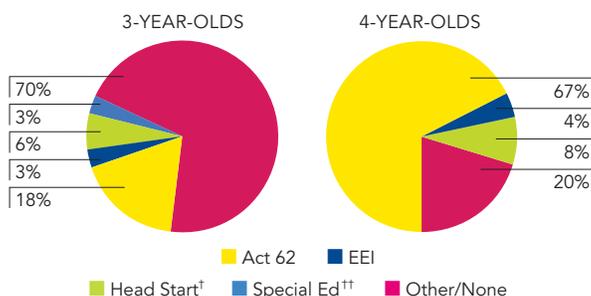
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VERMONT EARLY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,031 ¹
School districts that offer state program	57% ²
Income requirement	185% FPL ³
Hours of operation	Determined locally ⁴
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	1,102
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	972
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state 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); Meets child care requirements (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EC Educator, EC Educator-limited (public); EC Special Educator, AA or CDA (nonpublic) ⁵	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA (public); HSD + 30 credits or 3-credit course in CD (nonpublic) ⁵	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	9 credit hours/7 years (public); 12 clock hours/year (nonpublic)	At least 15 hours/year	<input 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	Determined locally; and support services ⁶	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	No meals required	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	None ⁷	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

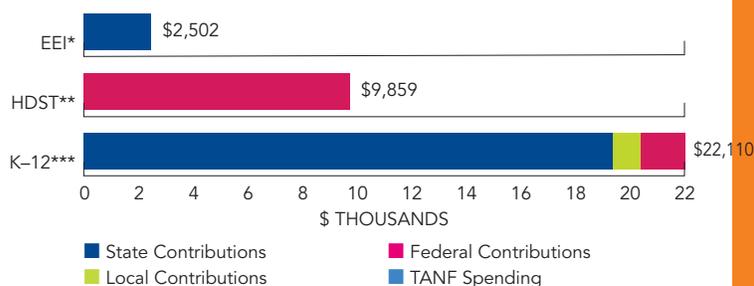
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$1,,031,751
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,502
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,502

* 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 2013-2014 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 '13-'14 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Of the 1,031 children receiving services through the EEI program, 60 percent (or 618) children were also served in the Act 62 program and reported in that figure. Those children served in both programs are only counted once in the state total to avoid duplication of enrollment.
² EEI is a competitive grant program. A total of 42 grants were awarded in 2013-2014.
³ Children may also qualify based on other risk factors such as developmental delay, risk for abuse or neglect, limited English proficiency, exposure to violence, homelessness, or geographic isolation.
⁴ Grantees propose their EEI service delivery model systems. Most EEI programs are half-day, 8-11 hours/week, for 2-3 days/week.

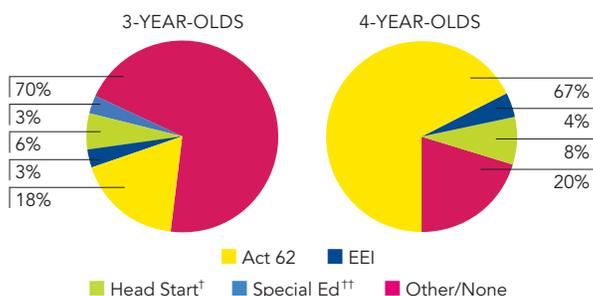
⁵ Teachers in public settings must have a BA with an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) birth-grade 3 or Early Childhood Special Educator (ECSE) birth-age 5 certification. State policy does not explicitly require teachers in nonpublic settings to hold a BA. All teachers in nonpublic settings must have a minimum of an AA in
⁶ Screenings and referrals are up to the EEI grantee to determine. Support services include parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities and transition to kindergarten activities.
⁷ State policy does not formally require monitoring for EEI, except for financial reports and a program's annual report, including child progress data. Department of Education's staff may conduct unannounced site visits.

VERMONT PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION - ACT 62

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	6,843
School districts that offer state program	91% (towns/communities)
Income requirement	No income requirement
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	1,102
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	972
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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



[†] Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state 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); Meets child care requirements (nonpublic) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EC Educator, EC Special Educator, ECE (public); AA, CDA, or child care post-secondary certificate (nonpublic) ²	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA (public); HSD + 30 hours or 3-credit course in CD (nonpublic) ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	9 credit hours/7 years (public);	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Determined locally; and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	No meals required	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

4

RESOURCES

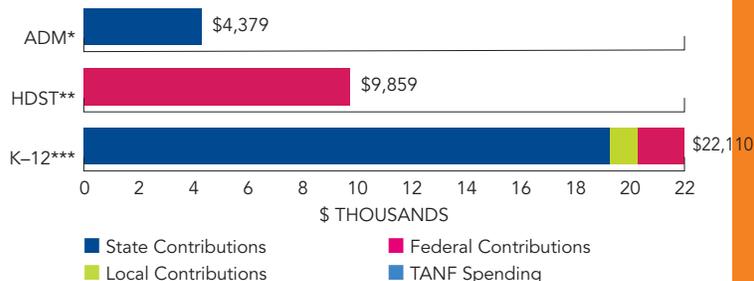
Total state pre-K spending	\$29,967,549
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,379
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,379

* 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 2013-2014 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 '13-'14 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Programs are funded to operate 6-10 hours per week. Most programs operate about 3 hours/day, 6-10 hours/week, 3-4 days/week for at least 35 weeks per year.

² Teachers in public settings must have a BA with an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) birth-grade 3 or Early Childhood Special Educator (ECSE) birth-age 5 certification. Nonpublic centers are only required to have one licensed teacher per center, rather than one per classroom. Lead teachers in nonpublic settings must meet child care requirements of an AA, CDA, or Child Care post-secondary certificate. Registered child care homes require only brief supervision by a licensed teacher. The majority of lead teachers possess a BA and are certified.

³ Assistant teachers must have an AA or equivalent and must meet "highly qualified" standards in public settings. In nonpublic settings assistant teachers need to have a high school diploma and a 30-hour course in child development. Other training is not specified in Act 62 legislation and depends on the type of pre-K provider teachers work for.

⁴ Screenings and referrals are determined locally. Support services include home visits or parent conferences, parent involvement activities, and transition to kindergarten activities. All other comprehensive services are determined locally.