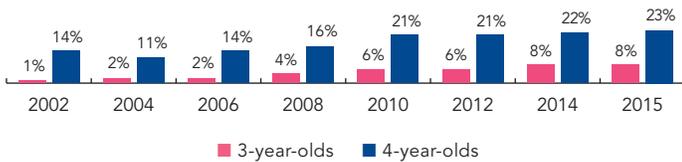
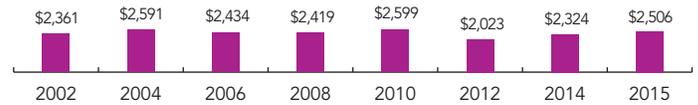


Colorado

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED* (2015 DOLLARS)



The Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) was launched in 1988 in an effort to target 3- and 4-year-olds in need of language development with the goal of lowering dropout rates and reducing dependence on public assistance. In 1992, CPP became a permanent program, but expanded its target population to all children who lack overall school readiness due to family risk factors. Risk factors for eligibility are defined in statute, including eligibility for free or reduced-price meals, being a dual language learner (DLL), being in foster care, a family history of abuse or neglect, homelessness, low parental education levels, parental substance abuse, or having a teen parent, as well as locally determined risk factors. Four-year-olds must meet at least one risk factor to enroll in CPP, while 3-year-olds must have a minimum of three risk factors.

During the 2013 legislative session, the Colorado legislature created a new type of CPP slot known as the Early Childhood At-Risk Enhancement or ECARE slot. The intention of this new approach was to allow school districts more flexibility. ECARE slots may be used to fund half-day pre-K, full-day pre-K, or full-day kindergarten. School districts may change the usage of their allotted ECARE slots from year to year, based on the needs of their early childhood population. In 2014-2015, 21,713 pre-K children attended CPP/ECARE.

CPP funding is determined through the Colorado school finance formula, with preschoolers receiving half the amount of students in grades 1 through 12. These funds are distributed directly to public schools that are given a predetermined number of half-day slots to serve eligible children. In 2014-2015, 96% of the 178 school districts in Colorado offered CPP. Two types of slots can be allocated to districts: CPP slots which can be used to serve eligible pre-K students and ECARE slots which can be used to serve pre-K students or to provide full-day opportunities for eligible kindergarteners. Two half-day slots can be combined to create full-day opportunities for pre-K children with very high needs. From 2010-2012, the state enacted consecutive budget cuts, including a reduction in the funding available for K-12 students. State funding for CPP, tied to Colorado's funding for K-12, increased in 2013-2014 to \$47.7 million to a current level over \$54 million (FY15). These figures do not include contributions from local sources, which are required by the school finance formula.

Schools may subcontract with private child care centers, Head Start, or other community-based or public agencies. The Charter School Institute also participates in the Colorado Preschool Program as a direct recipient of funds. Funding is awarded competitively with priority given to districts not currently participating in CPP. CPP may use additional funding sources, such as federal Head Start money, to extend the program day, supplement services, or provide wraparound care.

Colorado was one of 5 states funded in the second round of the federal Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge in 2012. The \$17.9 million grant is being used to fund activities designed to improve the quality of preschool with its QRIS system, Colorado Shines. All programs serving children funded through CPP use formative assessments to monitor progress and to illustrate growth between fall and spring in key areas of learning and development.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
22	11

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
38	31

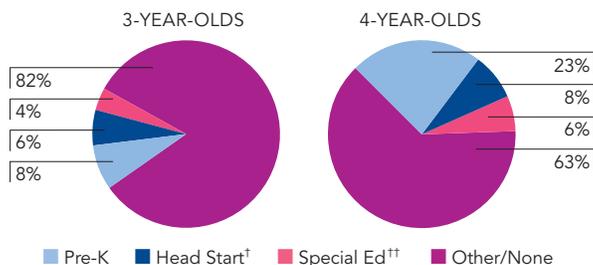
POLICIES TO SUPPORT	
DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS	WORKFORCE
—	—

COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	21,713
School districts that offer state program.....	96% (school districts)
Income requirement	185% FPL
Hours of operation	2.5 hours/day; Determined locally
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	7,363
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,654
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	CDA	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Early Childhood Course ¹	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	No minimum degree required	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours/year	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size.....		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	16		
4-year-olds	16		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:8		
4-year-olds	1:8		
Screening/referral	Immunizations; developmental; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depends on length of program day ²	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

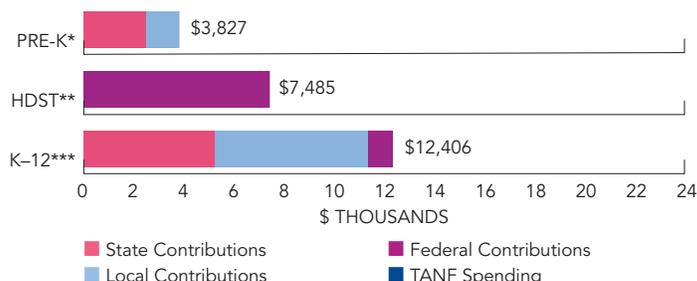
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$54,408,293
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,506
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$3,827

* 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 2014-2015 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.
 *** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '14-'15 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Teachers must have coursework in child development, developmentally appropriate practices, understanding parent partnerships, and multicultural education. They must be supervised by someone with at least a BA in ECE or Child Development.
² Meals and nutritious snacks must be served at suitable intervals. Children who are in the program for more than 4 hours per day must be offered a meal that meets at least one-third of their daily nutritional needs.