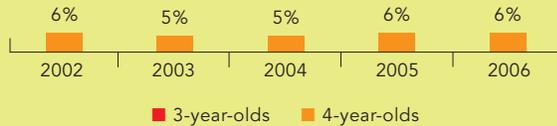
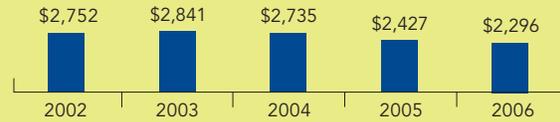


Arizona

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2006 DOLLARS)



Arizona began funding state prekindergarten in 1991. Since 1996, funding for prekindergarten has come from the Arizona Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), which also funds full-day kindergarten and supplemental services for grades K to 3. Funding flows through school districts, which may grant funds to private child care providers or Head Start if parents choose to obtain preschool services in one of those settings. All programs receiving ECBG funding must be accredited by state-approved accreditation organizations, including the National Association for the Education of Young Children and others. Children are eligible for the ECBG preschool program if their family income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Most children served are 4-year-olds, but the program does not have a minimum age requirement.

The ECBG initiative does not currently set minimum education requirements for teachers, but beginning in 2009, Arizona will require all new pre-K teachers to have early childhood certification. The state early childhood certification became available in 2005 and includes having a BA degree and passing a written assessment of early childhood subject knowledge.

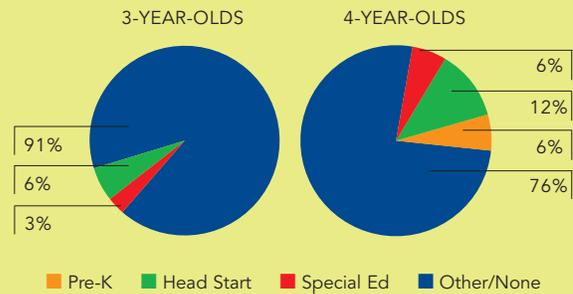
Arizona has increased state funding for full-day kindergarten to serve nearly all kindergartners in the state in 2006-2007. This may reduce the availability of pre-K programs located in public schools as some schools will use the classroom space for kindergarten programs instead.

ACCESS RANKING-4s	ACCESS RANKING-3s	RESOURCES RANKING
29	None Served	33

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	5,339
School districts that offer state program	10%
Income requirement	At or below 185% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Determined locally ¹
Special education enrollment	8,302
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	16,850
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

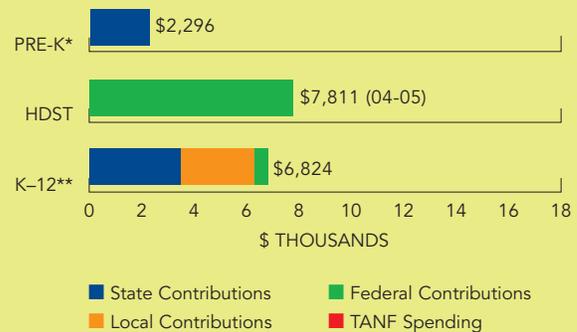
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive ²	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	None ³	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	None ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	12 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20 ⁴		
4-year-olds	20 ⁴		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10 ⁴		
4-year-olds	1:10 ⁴		
Screening/referral	None	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁵	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$12,258,488
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,296
State spending per 3-year-old	NA ⁶
State spending per 4-year-old	\$133 ⁶

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

**K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '05-'06 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ The majority of programs operate 4 hours per day, 5 days per week for the academic year. It is recommended that programs operate at least 12 hours per week.

² In 2005, the Arizona Early Childhood Education Standards were replaced by the Arizona Department of Education Early Learning Standards, which are also comprehensive.

³ The state Board of Education has approved a new teacher certification process that is now available, but certified teachers are not required in pre-K classrooms until 2009. Entry level teachers will be required to have a BA degree and pass a written assessment of early childhood subject knowledge.

⁴ These requirements represent NAEYC standards. All programs must be accredited, and although some of the accrediting organizations approved by the state set less stringent requirements, none of the state's programs are currently accredited by those agencies.

⁵ The state licensing agency requires licensed programs, including all ECBG pre-K programs, to provide meals depending on the length of time and time of day that a child attends.

⁶ For the purpose of these calculations, all spending was considered to be directed toward 4-year-olds because nearly all enrollees are age 4.