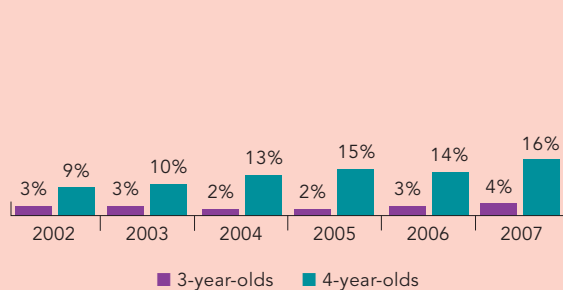
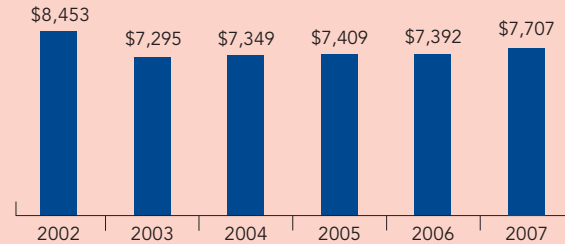


Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2007 DOLLARS)



In 1997, Connecticut established the School Readiness program to improve access to prekindergarten. The program serves both 3- and 4-year-old children in priority school districts (any town with a priority school) and competitive districts (any town ranked in the bottom 50 towns in the state in town wealth). School Readiness funds are allocated by the state directly to priority districts, and through competitive grants to the competitive districts. In participating communities, the chief elected official and school superintendent establish a School Readiness Council to provide direction to the local programs. Head Start centers, public schools, and private child care centers can provide School Readiness services. Most School Readiness programs are required to offer full-day, full-year slots. However, programs are allowed to provide some part-day, part-year; extended-day; or school-day, school-year slots for families with varying scheduling needs. Enrollment in School Readiness is based on an income requirement: at least 60 percent of children enrolled in the program must have a family income at or below 75 percent of the state median income. With the exception of families providing foster care to the child or receiving TANF, all families pay a sliding scale fee for the School Readiness program.

In October 2006, Connecticut's Early Childhood Cabinet issued a report, "Ready by 5 & Fine by 9," recommending a birth-to-age-8 approach to early education and supporting access to high-quality programs for all 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families. Connecticut plans to implement a Quality Rating and Improvement System for the 2007-2008 school year.

State funds are also used to supplement Head Start. These additional funds are used to provide additional part-day, full-day, and extended-day slots, as well as to support quality enhancements.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
18	9

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
3*	2

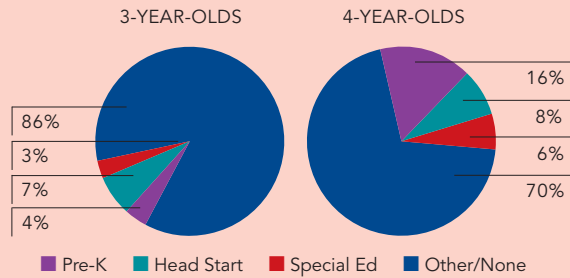
* In previous Yearbooks, only state spending was ranked.

CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment.....	8,532 ¹
School districts that offer state program	35% (communities)
Income requirement.....	60% of children must be at or below 75% SMI ²
Hours of operation	Determined by type of slot ³
Operating schedule	Determined by type of slot ³
Special education enrollment	3,893
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.....	6,246
State-funded Head Start enrollment	503 ⁴

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, or CDA + 12 credits in EC (public); ⁵ CDA + 12 credits in EC (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized.....	Cert. in EE w/ pre-K endorsement, or SpEd w/ pre-K-12 endorsement (public); ⁵ Meets CDA requirements (nonpublic)	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None ⁶	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	12 clock hours ⁷	At least 15 hours/year	<input 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	Vision, hearing, health, dental; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁹	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

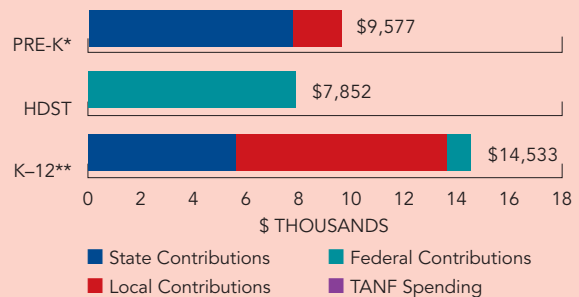
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

6

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$65,755,670
Local match required?.....	No
State Head Start spending	\$4,521,150
State spending per child enrolled.....	\$7,707
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$9,577

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 '06-'07 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 The state did not break enrollment into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds, so all age breakdowns are estimates using averages from state programs that did have age counts.
 2 Also, 60 percent of children served must be in need of full-day, full-year care.
 3 There are four types of slots, including full-day (10 hours)/ full-year; school-day (7 hours)/ school-year; part-day (2.5 hours)/school-year ; and extended day (slots that extend the hours, days, and weeks of a non-School Readiness program to meet full-day, full-year requirements). All programs operate 5 days per week.
 4 This figure is based on the federal PIR total of non-ACF-funded enrollment and the proportion of all enrollees who were age 3 or 4.
 5 A certified teacher must be present at least 2.5 hours per day. For the rest of the day, teachers in public schools must meet the nonpublic school requirements of a CDA plus 12 credits in early childhood.
 6 Assistant teachers must meet teacher requirements if acting in the capacity of lead teacher for part of the day. In full-day programs, assistant teachers generally act in a lead capacity for half of the program day and must meet the qualifications for lead teachers. There are no minimum degree requirements for assistant teachers who do not function as a lead teacher. However, during the

2006-2007 school year, they all had at least a high school diploma.
 7 All School Readiness staff must complete 2 annual trainings in early childhood education or child development and 1 annual training in serving children with disabilities. They must also document training in emerging literacy, diversity in the classroom, the Preschool Curriculum Framework, the Preschool Assessment Framework, and licensing requirements for training in nutrition, safety, CPR, first aid, and health.
 8 All children must have an annual well-child checkup by their health care provider. Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, mental health services for children, and ESL for parents.
 9 Programs are required to serve one snack to children who attend less than 5 hours per day and one snack plus one meal to children in class for 5 to 9 hours per day. Children attending more than 8 hours per day must be provided one snack and two meals or two snacks and one meal. Either the program or the parent may provide the food.