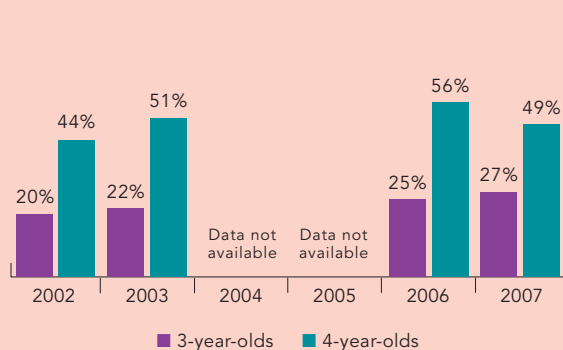
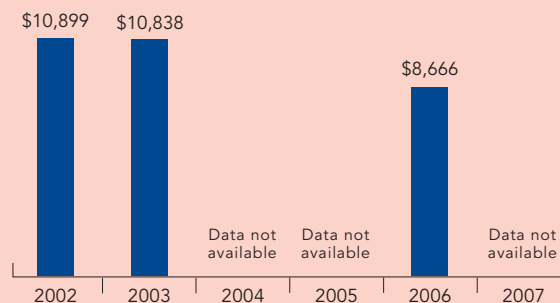


# District of Columbia

PERCENT OF DISTRICT POPULATION ENROLLED



DISTRICT SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2007 DOLLARS)



The District of Columbia has been funding preschool since the 1960s. During the 2006-2007 school year, all District of Columbia public elementary schools offered the Public School Preschool program and had either a Head Start or non-Head Start program. All 3- and 4-year-old children in the District are eligible for Public School Preschool but actual enrollment is limited by the number of available slots. The District of Columbia is working to expand access by increasing the number of prekindergarten programs. Slots for Public School Preschool are funded through the school funding formula on a per pupil basis.

The 2006-2007 school year was the second year of operation for the Pre-K Incentive Program, a component of the District's prekindergarten effort that serves 3- and 4-year-olds in community settings. The program is operated by the Early Care and Education Administration, which receives funding from the District of Columbia Public Schools. This year, the Pre-K Incentive Program served 352 3- and 4-year-olds in 24 classes at 11 different sites. The initiative offers comprehensive support services such as health, dental, mental health, vision, and hearing screenings, with the goal of helping children enter school ready to learn. Pre-K Incentive Program providers have monthly meetings with parents and the sites are monitored quarterly.

During the 2006-2007 school year, the District of Columbia collaborated with the Children's Literacy Initiative to begin a model literacy program in select preschools, and the number of schools participating in the initiative increased for the 2007-2008 school year. Since September of 2006, the Executive Director of School Readiness and Early Childhood Programs has been working to build a comprehensive service system for children ages 3 to 5, define school readiness, and develop a school readiness assessment instrument.

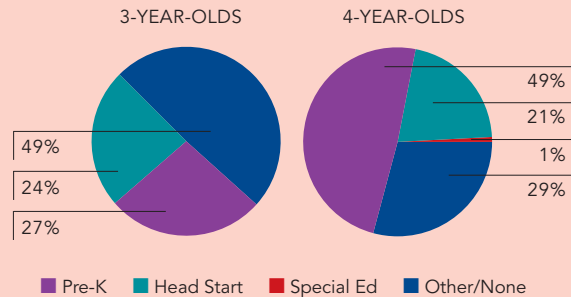
The District of Columbia has the unique situation of being a city that is not within a state. This report includes information about the District's preschool initiatives because, unlike other cities, it has not been included in any state profile. Due to the differences between city-level and statewide programs, the District's preschool initiatives cannot be directly compared to state programs. Therefore, the District is not ranked among the states according to resources or enrollment. The Public School Preschool and Pre-K Incentive programs are profiled together because they have similar standards and requirements.

## D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL PRESCHOOL / PRE-K INCENTIVE PROGRAM

### ACCESS

Total district program enrollment .....	4,927 <sup>1,2</sup>
School districts that .....100% (elementary schools) <sup>3</sup> offer program	
Income requirement .....	None
Hours of operation .....	7 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment .....	93 <sup>4</sup>
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.....	2,906 <sup>2</sup>
District-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	DISTRICT PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA <sup>5</sup>	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	Degree in EC	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	60 college units or AA <sup>6</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	33.75 clock hours <sup>7</sup>	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....	20 or lower		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	15 <sup>8</sup>		
4-year-olds .....	20 <sup>8</sup>		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	2:15 <sup>8</sup>		
4-year-olds .....	1:10 <sup>8</sup>		
Screening/referral .....	Health; support services <sup>9</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Breakfast, lunch and snack <sup>10</sup>	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

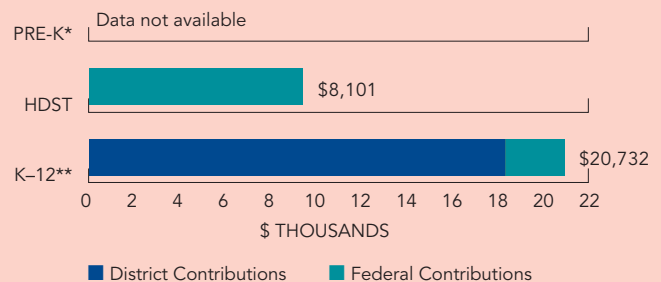
**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

**9**

### RESOURCES

Total district pre-K spending.....	Not available
Local match required? .....	NA
District spending per child enrolled .....	Not available
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	Not available

### 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.

<sup>1</sup> This enrollment total includes 352 children in the Pre-K Incentive program and 4,575 children in the District of Columbia Public School Preschool program. It does not include children served in charter schools because this information was not available at press time.

<sup>2</sup> Some duplication may exist in the enrollment counts for city preschool and federal Head Start.

<sup>3</sup> Every elementary school in the District of Columbia's school district has at least one pre-K class. The Pre-K Incentive program had pre-K classes at 11 sites.

<sup>4</sup> This figure represents data from the 2003-2004 school year, as more recent data are not available.

<sup>5</sup> Teachers in the Public School Preschool program are required to have a BA. Teachers in nonpublic schools (Pre-K Incentive Program) are required to have an AA. During the 2006-2007 school year, there were 24 lead teachers in the Pre-K Incentive Program; 2 had an MA, 14 had a BA, 4 had a BS, and 4 had an AA and were working toward a BS.

<sup>6</sup> In the Public School Preschool program an assistant teacher must have an associate's degree or the equivalent number of units and the emphasis should be in early childhood education. In the Pre-K Incentive program, there is no specific degree requirement, although all assistant teachers have at least a CDA.

<sup>7</sup> Teachers in the Public School Preschool program are provided with ½ a day of professional development each month during the school year. This is an average of 33.75 hours per year. They are also required to attend four days of district mandated professional development activities per year, two days before the start of the school year and two days before the beginning of the winter term. Teachers and assistant teachers in the Pre-K Incentive program are provided with one day per month of professional development.

<sup>8</sup> In the Pre-K Incentive program, the requirements are a maximum class size of 16 and a minimum class size of 15 for 3- and 4-year-olds. The required staff to child ratio is 1:8 for 3- and 4-year-olds.

<sup>9</sup> The Public School Preschool program requires health screenings and up-to-date immunizations for enrollment. The Pre-K Incentive program offers additional screenings. Support services include four annual parent conferences (plus one annual home visit for Head Start programs), parent involvement activities, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. Additional services may be offered at local discretion.

<sup>10</sup> Breakfast and morning and afternoon snacks are required to be provided for free. Lunch is not required to be provided for free but all children must have lunch while at school.