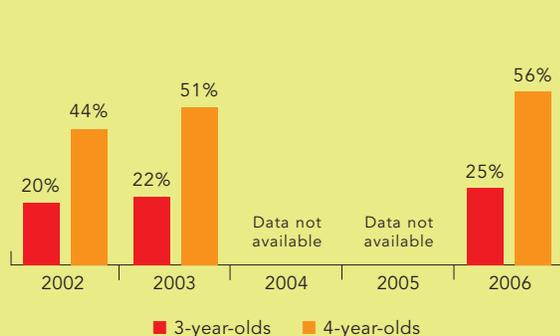
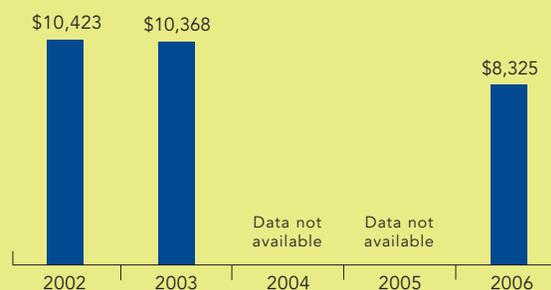


District of Columbia

PERCENT OF DISTRICT POPULATION ENROLLED



DISTRICT SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2006 DOLLARS)



The District of Columbia began funding preschool in the 1960s. Almost all public elementary schools offer the Public School Preschool program, and about half of the district's charter schools offer the program as well. Public School Preschool is funded through the school funding formula on a per pupil basis. All 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds qualify for enrollment, but access to the program is limited by the number of spaces available. The district has taken steps to increase program availability, such as increasing the number of prekindergarten classrooms.

To further increase access for 4-year-olds, the District of Columbia launched a new preschool initiative in 2005 called the Pre-K Incentive Program, although it is not the focus of this report. Through a contract with the Department of Human Services Early Care and Education Administration, the district provides funding for 336 4-year-olds served in community-based centers. The program offers full-day services during the academic year, and also provides comprehensive services.

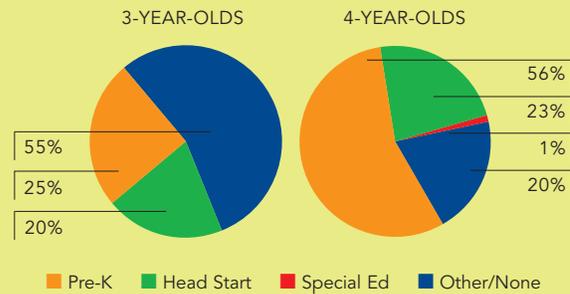
In 2005, the District of Columbia developed the Early Learning Standards for Children Entering Kindergarten in the District of Columbia: Building a Strong Foundation for School Success and Lifelong Learning. These standards provided the foundation for the District of Columbia Public Schools' Pre-K through Grade 12 Standards. In September of 2006, the district hired a new executive director of school readiness and early childhood programs to provide unified oversight of the district's early childhood programs, and to collaborate with community stakeholders on standardizing high-quality preschool programs. Important tasks of the new executive director include building a comprehensive service system for children age 3 to 5, defining school readiness, and developing a readiness assessment instrument that can be used by all early childhood programs in the district.

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. However, there are significant differences between city-level services and statewide programs that prevent the district's programs from being directly comparable to state programs. Therefore, the district is not ranked among the states according to resources or enrollment.

ACCESS

Total district program enrollment	5,743 ^{1,2}
School districts that89% (elementary schools) offer program	
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	93 ³
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	3,054 ²
District-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

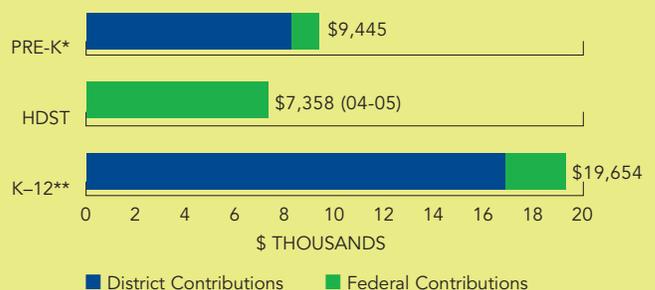
POLICY	DISTRICT PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	Degree in EC	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree.....	60 college units or AA	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	None	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size.....		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	15		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds.....	1:8		
4-year-olds.....	1:10		
Screening/referral	Support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Breakfast and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring.....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total district pre-K spending	\$47,811,250 ⁵
Local match required?	NA
District spending per child enrolled	\$8,325
District spending per 3-year-old.....	\$2,080
District spending per 4-year-old.....	\$4,696

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 This enrollment total includes 4,310 children served in public schools and an estimated 1,433 children served in charter schools.

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

³ This figure represents data from the 2003-2004 school year, as more recent data are not available.

⁴ Support services include three annual parent conferences, one annual home visit, and transition to kindergarten activities. Additional services may be offered at local discretion.

⁵ This spending total includes \$35,881,525 in district funds for children served in public schools and an estimated \$11,929,725 in district funds for children served in charter schools.