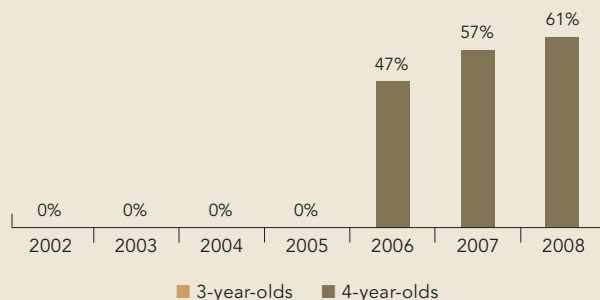
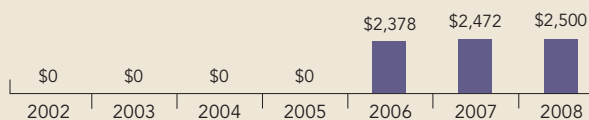


Florida

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2008 DOLLARS)



In response to a 2002 state constitutional amendment requiring universal availability of preschool programs for all 4-year-olds whose parents want them to attend, Florida’s Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program was established in 2005. VPK became available across the entire state and served more than 100,000 children in its first year of operation.

Services are offered in a variety of settings by providers who meet the program’s minimum requirements. These settings include licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, accredited nonpublic schools, accredited faith-based providers, and public schools. Participating local providers receive fixed funding based on a per-child amount. Funds are distributed through early learning coalitions, which are the local administrators of the program. Families may enroll children in any participating program where space is available.

Families must choose between two different versions of the VPK program—a school-year program totaling 540 instructional hours or a summer program totaling 300 instructional hours. The 540-hour school year program requires teachers to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) or equivalent credential while the 300-hour summer program requires teachers to hold at least a bachelor’s degree.

For the 2007-2008 school year, the number of participating children increased by 10,000, and VPK received a 4.6 percent increase in the base student allocation.

The School Readiness Program, another Florida pre-K initiative, began in 1999 and expanded in 2001 when it incorporated two other state programs, the State Migrant Prekindergarten Program and the Prekindergarten Early Intervention Program. Early learning coalitions distribute federal and state dollars to support a broad range of early childhood programs and services through this initiative. Data in this report focus only on the VPK program.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
2	None Served

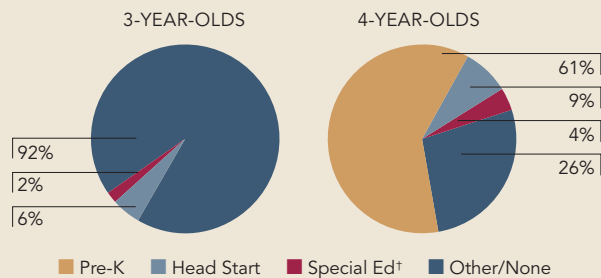
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
34	36

FLORIDA VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	134,583 ¹
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	540 hours/year (school-year program); 300 hours/year (summer program) ²
Special education enrollment	17,790
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	33,470
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start, but includes children who are enrolled in state-funded pre-K.

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 (summer); CDA or equivalent (school year) ³	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EC or EE certification (public and nonpublic - summer); Meets CDA requirements (school year) ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	40 clock hours ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	10 clock hours/year ⁵	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	10 (summer); 18 (school year)		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:10 ⁶		
Screening/referral	Determined locally ⁷	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁸	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

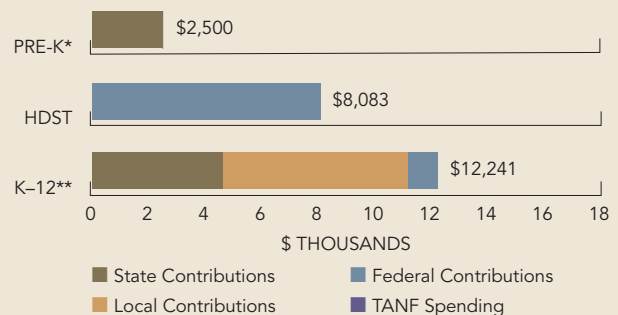
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

4

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$336,469,116
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,500
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,500

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 '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ The total may contain a duplicate count of children served if a child enrolled at more than one coalition during the course of the year (e.g., a child moved location).
² VPK programs may choose to operate a summer program, totaling at least 300 hours of service, or a school year program, totaling at least 540 hours of service. The operating schedule and hours are determined locally, but the average number of hours per day for a 180-day, 540-hour program is 3 and the average number of hours per day for the 300-hour summer program is 7.5.
³ Teacher qualification requirements are different for the summer and school year programs. Teachers in the summer programs are required either to be certified teachers or to have a BA in early childhood, primary or preschool education, family and consumer science, or elementary education. Teachers in the school year programs are required to have a CDA or equivalent and have completed a Department of Education course on emergent literacy.

⁴ Assistant teachers do not have to meet any degree requirements, but must complete a 40-hour training for licensed child care providers.
⁵ For the CDA or equivalent, the requirement is 10 clock hours per year. For the certified teacher, the requirement is 120 clock hours per 60 months.
⁶ Summer programs have a maximum class size of 10 with one teacher. School year programs have one teacher for classes of up to 10 students, and must have a second staff member in classes of 11 students up to the maximum of 18 students.
⁷ Public schools, Head Start, and subsidized child care programs are required to offer vision, hearing, and physical health screenings.
⁸ Meals and snacks are required for full-day programs.