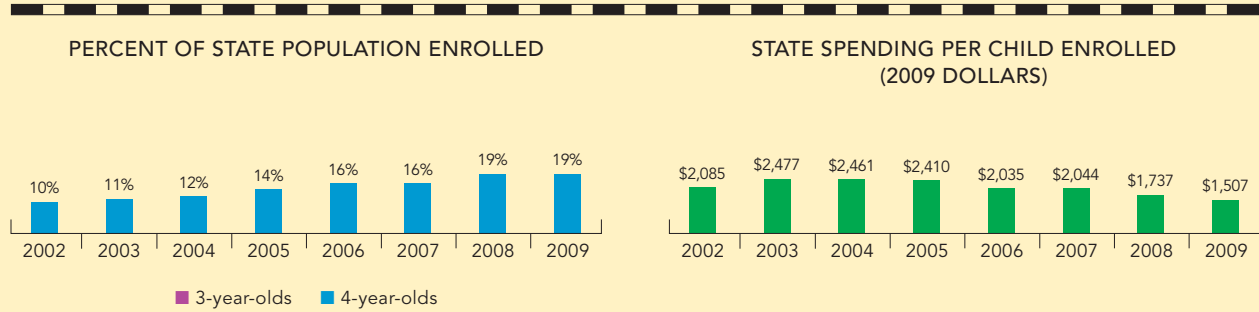


Maine



Maine's Two-Year Kindergarten initiative was created in 1983. The initiative aims to support public preschool education with resources allocated to local districts through the school funding formula. Beginning in 2007, state-funded programs for 4-year-olds received a distinct definition as the Public Preschool Program.

Participation in the Public Preschool Program is optional, but school districts choosing to offer preschool education must receive approval from the Department of Education, which includes a planning process incorporating collaboration with local providers. Districts are eligible to receive a full per-pupil subsidy if a minimum of 10 hours per week of programming is provided. The state also supplies an additional "weighted" subsidy to supplement the regular per-pupil allocation for pre-K through second grade.

In the 2008-2009 program year, 24 percent of Maine's elementary schools chose to provide preschool education programs, and Maine is continuing to work towards school unit regionalization, being granted an additional year to do so by the state legislature. While the majority of public preschool programs operate in public schools, districts may collaborate with Head Start and/or contract with private child care centers or family child care homes. Many of the programs that were housed once in community settings have now moved to public schools due to new space being available and as a way to minimize transitions for children and families. In the 2008-2009 school year, 96 percent of enrolled children were in programs located in public school buildings.

Beginning with the 2007-2008 program year, teachers in the Public Preschool Program are required to hold a birth-5 teaching endorsement.

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

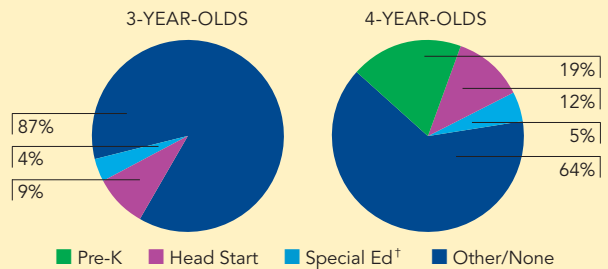
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
38	35

MAINE PUBLIC PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	2,731
School districts that offer state program	24% (public elementary schools)
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year ¹
Special education enrollment	2,249
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	2,613
State-funded Head Start enrollment	355 ²

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



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET 5 </div>
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher specialized training	EC birth–5 endorsement	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Assistant teacher degree	Ed Tech II (30 credit hours)	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher in-service.....	6 credit hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds	NA			
4-year-olds	No limit			
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds	NA			
4-year-olds	1:15			
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, developmental ³	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Meals	None ⁴	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Monitoring	Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>	

RESOURCES

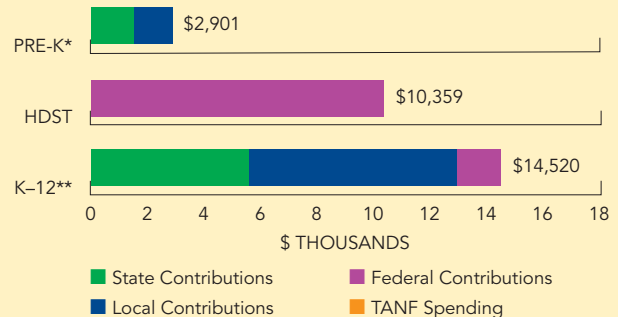
Total state pre-K spending	\$4,115,453 ⁵
Local match required?.....	Yes, tied to school funding formula
State Head Start spending	\$4,055,798 ⁶
State spending per child enrolled	\$1,507
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,901

* 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 '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Programs must operate a minimum of 10 hours per week to receive a per-pupil subsidy through the school funding formula. Some districts provide a full school-day, 5-day program; some provide a part-day program and operate 4 half days with the fifth day used for home visits and teacher planning; and some offer the program within a longer child care day.

² State-funded Head Start enrollment in Maine was reported by ACF and was not broken down by single year of age. As a result, this figure is an estimate based on the percentage of federal Head Start enrollees in Maine who were 3 or 4 years old.

³ A minimum of one annual parent conference or home visit is required. Programs are required to provide some comprehensive services, but specific services are determined locally, as are health and dental screenings and referrals.

⁴ While not required, most programs offer a snack and others offer breakfast and/or lunch. Programs that partner with Head Start must follow Head Start requirements for meals.

⁵ In addition to Public Preschool Program funding, a total of \$24,369,798 in weighted funds were available for pre-K through grade 2, including a state share of \$12,657,193. It is not possible to estimate the amount used to serve 4-year-olds.

⁶ Funding for Maine's state-funded Head Start program is estimated because the state was unable to provide this information.