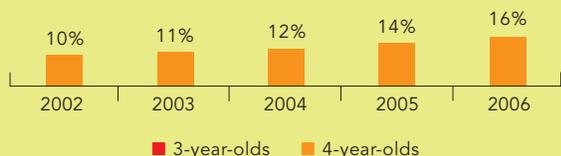
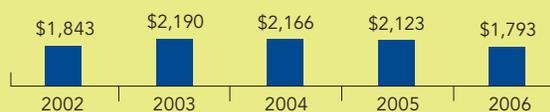


# Maine

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2006 DOLLARS)



**I**n 1983, the Maine Legislature created the Two-Year Kindergarten initiative, allowing school districts to voluntarily offer early childhood programs to 4-year-old children. Schools involve local providers in the planning process and must obtain program approval from the Department of Education. Districts receive reimbursement through Maine’s school funding formula and are eligible to receive a full per pupil subsidy when a minimum of 10 hours per week of programming is offered. In 2005-2006, Maine began providing an additional “weighted” subsidy to supplement the regular per pupil allocation for grades K-2, including programs for 4-year-olds.

About one quarter of the state’s school districts have chosen to offer programs, and the state Department of Education is actively encouraging more districts to offer prekindergarten services for 4-year-olds. While the majority of prekindergarten programs operate in public schools, districts can form partnerships with Head Start and contract with private child care centers or family child care homes to provide services. In 2005, the Two-Year Kindergarten program adopted the State of Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines to facilitate consistency and collaboration among all components of the state’s system of early care and education. The State Board of Education approved a birth to age 5 teaching endorsement for the 2007-2008 program year.

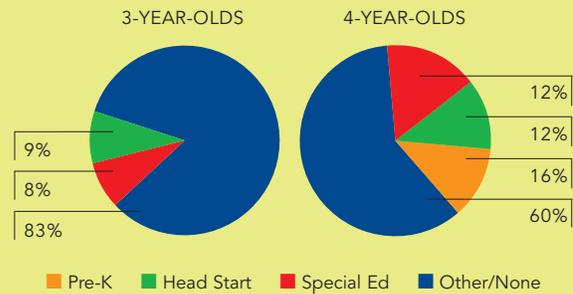
In addition to providing funds for the Two-Year Kindergarten program, Maine also provided \$3,581,018 as a supplement to the federal Head Start program during fiscal year 2006.

ACCESS RANKING-4s	ACCESS RANKING-3s	RESOURCES RANKING
17	None Served	36

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	2,088
School districts that offer state program .....	27%
Income requirement .....	None
Hours of operation .....	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Special education enrollment .....	2,787
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	2,882
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	461 <sup>2</sup>

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



## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

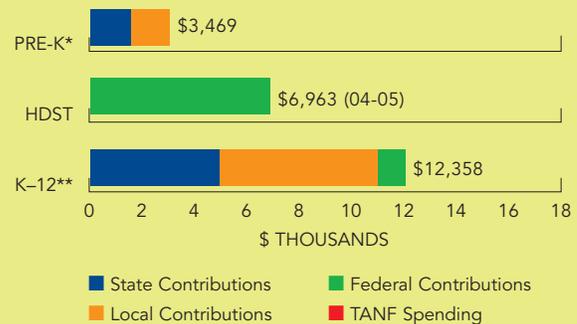
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive <sup>3</sup>	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	EC or elem. certification	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	30 credit hours	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	90 clock 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 <sup>4</sup>		
Screening/referral .....	Vision, hearing, and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	None	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**  
**4**

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$3,744,583 <sup>6</sup>
Local match required? .....	Yes, tied to school funding formula
State Head Start spending .....	\$3,581,018
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$1,793
State spending per 3-year-old .....	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old .....	\$278

### 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.

<sup>1</sup> Many programs operate 2.5 hours per day. A program must operate a minimum of 10 hours per week to receive a per-pupil subsidy through the school funding formula. Programs are expected to operate for 34 weeks per year.

<sup>2</sup> Maine was not able to break its state-funded Head Start enrollment 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.

<sup>3</sup> The State of Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines were adopted in March 2005.

<sup>4</sup> The Maine statute pertaining to Basic School Approval and addressing "classroom student-teacher ratios" is intended to guide classroom size. The majority of programs operate with a teacher and educational technician, reducing the ratio to 1:8 or 1:10.

<sup>5</sup> The number of annual parent conferences or home visits is determined locally.

<sup>6</sup> In addition to Two-Year Kindergarten program funding, Maine delivered \$19,898,400 in targeted funds to grades K-2 (including the 4-year-olds in the Two-Year Kindergarten program). It is not possible to estimate the percentage of these funds that are used for serving 4-year-old children.