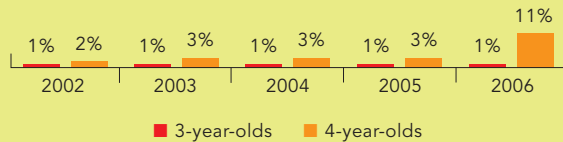
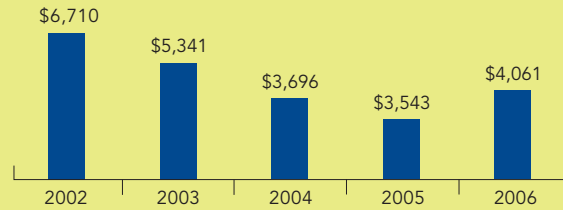


Tennessee

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2006 DOLLARS)



Tennessee has been funding the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Pilot Project since 1998, offering highest priority to 3- and 4-year-olds with family incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Children may also enroll in the program if they have certain state-specified risk factors, such as risk of abuse or neglect, or locally specified factors such as having a parent on active military duty. The state awards competitive grant funding to public schools, Head Start centers, private child care providers, institutes of higher education, and public housing authorities. The program relied partly on TANF funding in earlier years, but Tennessee stopped using TANF funds for this program in 2003, resulting in an enrollment drop.

Beginning in 2005, the state allocated excess lottery funds to expanded prekindergarten services serving more than 6,000 additional at-risk 4-year-olds. These classrooms are considered part of the state's new Voluntary Pre-K Initiative. In addition to this extra lottery funding, the state tripled the 2006-2007 general revenue allocation for prekindergarten to open an additional 232 programs. Voluntary Pre-K classrooms receive higher state funding amounts than the previously established ECE classrooms and are also required to obtain local matching funds, but the two programs follow similar standards and are profiled as a single initiative in this report.

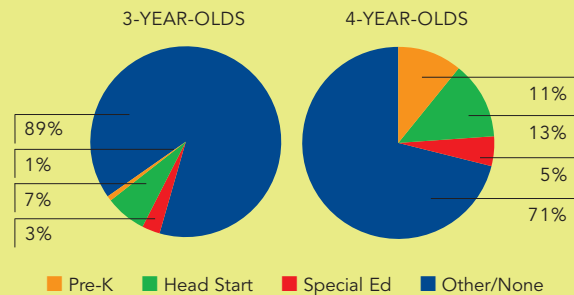
To increase coordination among state-level offices working with preschool children and their families, Tennessee created the Office of Early Learning to oversee Even Start, Head Start, Family Resource Centers, and School Administered Child Care Program Evaluators. The Department of Education has also established a data collection system for all prekindergarten students regardless of funding source or program.

ACCESS RANKING-4s	ACCESS RANKING-3s	RESOURCES RANKING
23	25	12

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	8,618
School districts that offer state program	82%
Income requirement	185% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	5.5 hours/day + naptime, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	6,051
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	15,432
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

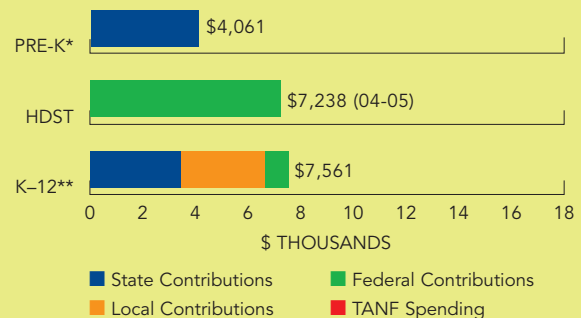
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Teacher license with pre-K endorsement	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA (ECE pilot); HSD + pre-K experience (VPK) ²	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	18 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	16		
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	Vision, hearing, health, and support	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service ³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	At least lunch and snack	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 state pre-K spending	\$35,000,000
Local match required?	Yes ⁴
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,061
State spending per 3-year-old	\$22
State spending per 4-year-old	\$431

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 Children who meet the income criteria receive highest priority for enrollment.

² Requirements are the same for teacher degrees in both the ECE pilot program and the statewide expansion of this program, called VPK. However, assistant teacher degree requirements differ between these two programs. In the ECE pilot, all assistant teachers are required to have a CDA. Through VPK, the LEA is required to hire an assistant teacher with a CDA if one is available, but if not, the LEA may hire one with a high school diploma and relevant experience working with ECE programs.

³ A new requirement for all children to have vision and hearing screening and referral was added to the Scope of Services for the 2005-2006 school year; in prior years, screening and referral requirements for vision and hearing were determined locally. Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities, and transition to pre-K and kindergarten activities. Some comprehensive services are required, but specific services are determined locally.

⁴ As of the 2005-2006 school year, new programs were required to provide a local match.