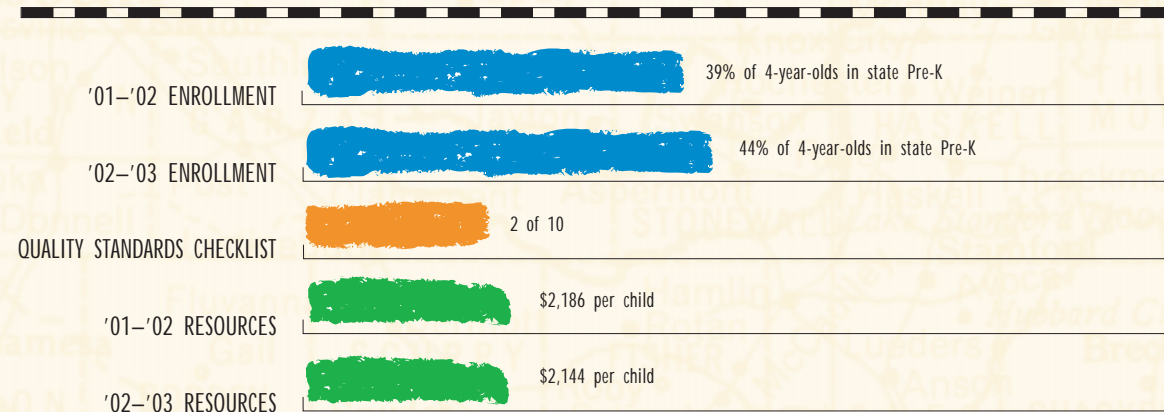


Texas



The state's Public School Prekindergarten was established in 1984 to serve children at risk. Children are eligible to participate if they are age 3 or 4 and qualify for free or reduced-price lunch (defined as having an income below 185 percent of poverty), are unable to comprehend and speak English, or are homeless. A district must offer prekindergarten classes if it has at least 15 eligible 4-year-olds. The prekindergarten programs are all operated by public schools, but some schools coordinate with Head Start or child care programs to offer the classes. Funding is provided as part of regular school funding for prekindergarten through twelfth grades.

The number of 3-year-olds attending Public School Prekindergarten was 13,662 in 2002–2003, while the number of 4-year-olds was 143,074. Total funding for the school year was \$336,000,000.

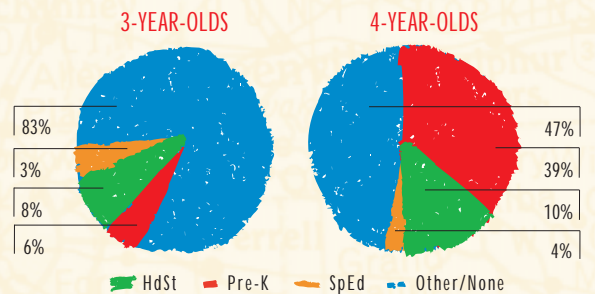
In the 2002–2003 biennium, the Legislature appropriated \$200,000,000 for Prekindergarten Expansion Grants. Priority for these grants is given to districts with low third-grade reading scores. Grants enable districts to offer full-day services.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	147,324
School districts that offer state program	73%
Income requirement	Free or reduced-price lunch eligible
Hours of operation	Half-day, full-week ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year ²
Special education enrollment	20,069
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	59,003
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

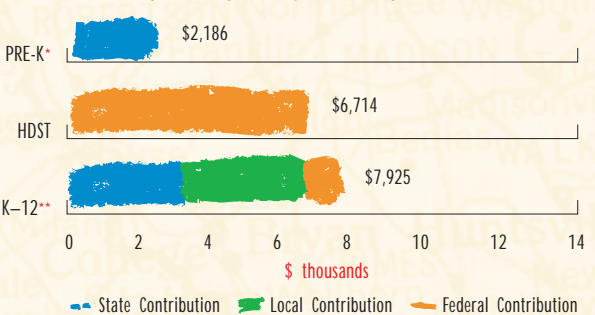
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Endorsement in Pre-K or K ³	Specializing in EC	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	None ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	Not specified ⁵	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit ⁶		
4-year-olds	No limit ⁶		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit		
4-year-olds	No limit		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision and hearing	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	None ⁷	At least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$322,000,000 ⁸
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,186
State spending per 3-year-old	\$134
State spending per 4-year-old	\$857

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 '01-'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- Basic funding is for half-day services. In 2001–2002, expansion grants enabled 305 districts to offer full-day services.
- Public School Pre-K follows an academic year schedule, but there is a separate summer program for students entering kindergarten who cannot speak or comprehend English.
- Bilingual teachers need a specific endorsement for bilingual instruction. Endorsements require coursework and completion of a subject-specific exam.
- Assistant teachers are not required in classrooms.
- Districts must offer a certain number of staff development days, and teachers may need in-service training to maintain certification.
- The class size limit for kindergarten–grade 4 is 22. Pre-K classes no larger than 18 are preferred, but not required.
- Comprehensive services are generally not mandated, but most districts make appropriate referrals, offer parent conferences and transition services, and provide help to families when possible.
- This figure does not include an additional \$100,000,000 in Pre-K expansion grants.