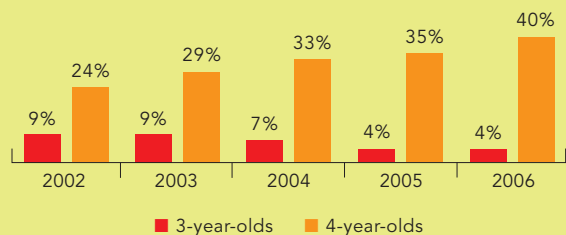
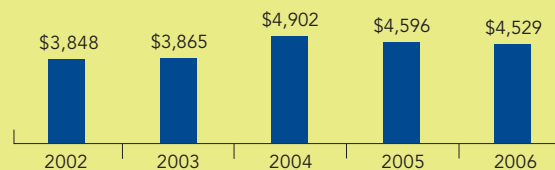


West Virginia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2006 DOLLARS)



In 1983, West Virginia revised its school code to allow local school boards to create preschool education programs for 3- and 4-year-olds through the Public School Early Childhood Education initiative. Legislation in 2002 required West Virginia to work toward voluntary universal prekindergarten for 4-year-olds by 2012, and as a result the state has reduced access for 3-year-olds in recent years. Since July 2004, 3-year-olds can only participate in the program if they have a documented disability. However, West Virginia has been gradually serving more 4-year-olds each year, and programs are currently available in all school districts.

Counties must submit an annual plan to the state to outline how they will expand access, and the state is working with counties to ensure that they have enough classrooms and that the classrooms meet the state's quality standards. While funding runs through the public schools, as part of the initiative's expansion the state will require half of the programs to be in collaborative settings with Head Start, child care, or private prekindergarten programs. State funding for the prekindergarten program is supplemented by significant amounts of federal Head Start, Title I and IDEA funding.

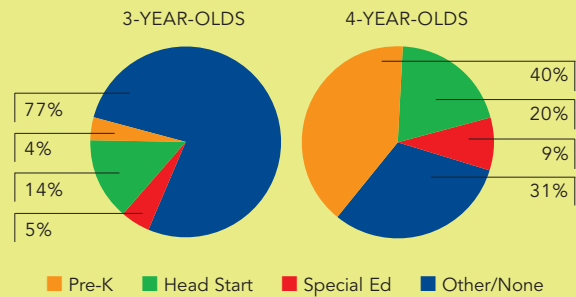
In 2006-2007, about 85 percent of Public School Early Childhood Education programs use the Creative Curriculum in their classrooms, and the state maintains web-based portfolios for all children in classrooms using this curriculum. This change allows the state to track student assessment results, a step toward meeting the requirement to chart progress for all students in the West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework.

ACCESS RANKING-4s	ACCESS RANKING-3s	RESOURCES RANKING
6	8	10

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	8,944
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	2,835
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	6,880
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

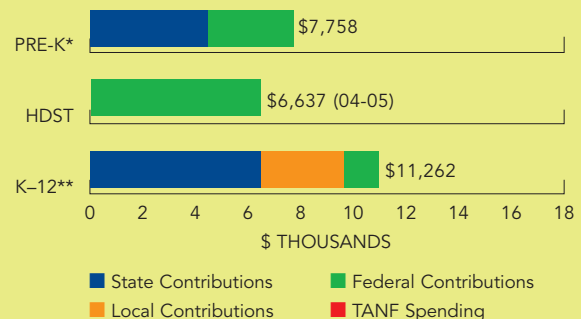
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (pre-K only programs); AA (blended programs) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	See footnotes ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD or equivalent ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours ⁵	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health, and dental; and support services ⁶	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁷	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
7

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$40,511,010
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,529
State spending per 3-year-old	\$203
State spending per 4-year-old	\$1,807

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 Hours of operation are determined locally, but programs must operate for at least 12 hours per week for the academic year.

² If the classroom is in a community collaborative (supported by two or more funding sources and located in a public school or community-based setting), the teacher may be on permit, provided that the teacher has at least an Associate's degree in an approved field and is working toward certification. Teachers may be on permit for up to 5 years.

³ Teachers in public school settings that are not collaboratives must be certified in Birth-5, Early Childhood Education, Preschool Special Needs, or Elementary Education (with a Pre-K/K endorsement). Teachers in community collaborative

settings must have a degree in Child Development/Early Childhood or in Occupational Development with an emphasis in Child Development/Early Childhood.

⁴ Assistant teachers must also be at least 18 years of age.

⁵ A change in state policy, starting in August 2005, reduced required annual in-service hours from 18 hours per year to 15.

⁶ Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, transition to kindergarten activities, and other locally determined services.

⁷ Meals must be offered if the program operates for more than 4 hours per day.