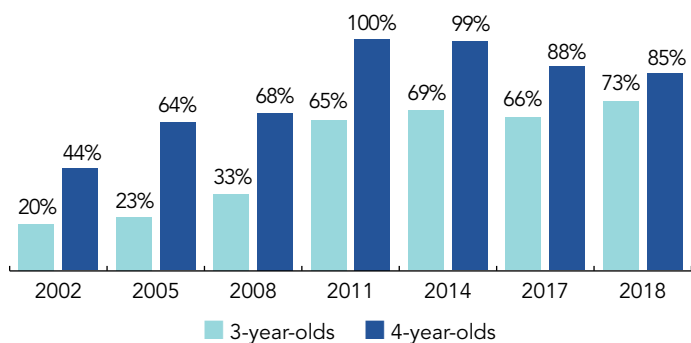
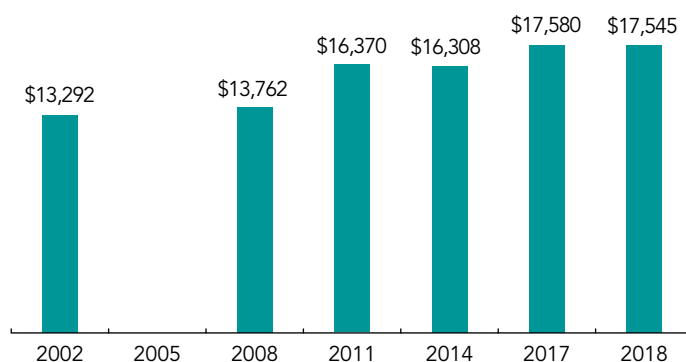


District of Columbia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2018 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

District of Columbia preschool enrolled 13,492 children in 2017-2018, an increase of 415 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$236,712,885, up \$6,821,142 (3%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$17,545 in 2017-2018, down \$35 from 2016-2017, adjusted for inflation. District of Columbia met 3 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

In 2018, the District of Columbia Council passed the Birth to Three for All DC Act, increasing DC's investment in quality early learning. One provision mandates that DC develop a competitive salary scale for early childhood educators (for FY 2019), to increase salaries for early educators and provide more support for teachers to achieve higher credentials and degrees, including those providing pre-K services. Additionally, the District of Columbia Education Office was awarded a \$10.6 million Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2018 to strengthen DC's B-5 system of programs and services promoting children's health, well-being and early childhood care and education through more coordination and collaboration to improve outcomes for young children and their families.

BACKGROUND

Among the first in the nation to invest in early education, DC has offered pre-K since the 1960s. DC began to bolster its investment in pre-K significantly in 2008 through the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Amendment Act of 2008 (Pre-K Act). The Pre-K Act expanded the DC public pre-K program to provide quality, universally accessible pre-K via a mixed-delivery system in DC Public Schools (DCPS), public charter schools (PCS), and community-based organizations (CBOs). The Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) oversees DC's Universal Pre-K Program, including programs in DCPS and CBOs. PCSs are authorized and monitored by the DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB).

Pre-K programs operate five-days-a-week for a minimum of 6.5 hours per day and a minimum of 180 instructional days per year. Given the high availability and participation, this program can be considered universal, as the District of Columbia has a higher percentage of 3- and 4-year olds enrolled than any U.S. state or territory. Funding for public pre-K programs is based on the school funding formula used for K-12 (the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula), with spending per pupil adjusted through a series of weights for at-risk, English Language Learners and students with special needs.

The common measure of quality for pre-K classrooms in DC is the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). CLASS data is used by OSSE, in partnership with DC Public Schools and the PCSB, as part of the STAR Framework, which results in a school rating and is included on each school's DC School Report Card. The PCSB also uses CLASS in its Performance Management Framework, which provides all public charter local education agencies with an annual score. OSSE contracts with an external evaluator to conduct annual CLASS assessments in CBOs to determine each facility's rating for Capital Quality, DC's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

| ACCESS RANKINGS | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 4-YEAR-OLDS | 3-YEAR-OLDS |
| 1 | 1 |

| RESOURCE RANKINGS | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| STATE SPENDING | ALL REPORTED SPENDING |
| 1 | 1 |

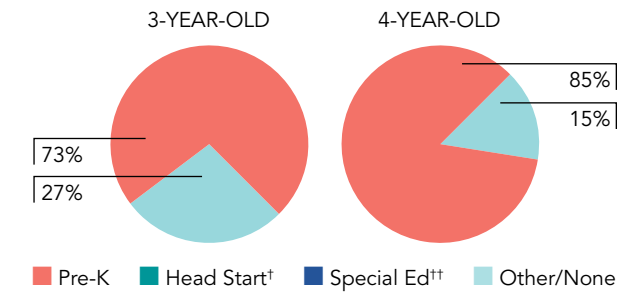
| TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET |
|----------------------|
| 3 |

D.C. PUBLIC PRE-K

ACCESS

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Total state pre-K enrollment | 13,492 |
| School districts that offer state program | 100% (wards) |
| Income requirement | No income requirement |
| Minimum hours of operation | 6.5 hours/day; 5 days/week |
| Operating schedule | School or academic year |
| Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 | 1,012 |
| Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 | 2,309 |
| State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 | 0 |

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

| POLICY | D.C. PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK? |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned with other state standards, supported, culturally sensitive; DCPS & CBO: aligned with child assessments | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher degree | BA (DCPS & CBO); Determined locally (PCS) | BA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher specialized training | Elem. Ed. (DCPS); ECE, CD (CBO); Determined locally (PCS) | Specializing in pre-K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Assistant teacher degree | CDA (DCPS); AA (CBO); Determined locally (PCS) | CDA or equivalent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff professional development | 6 days/year (DCPS teachers); 15 hours/year (DCPS assistant teachers); 30 hours/year (CBO); PD plans (DCPS teachers & CBO); Coaching (DCPS & CBO) | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maximum class size | DCPS & CBO only: 16 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff-child ratio | DCPS & CBO only: 1:8 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, health & more | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

3

RESOURCES

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Total state pre-K spending | \$236,712,885 |
| Local match required? | No |
| State Head Start spending | \$0 |
| State spending per child enrolled | \$17,545 |
| All reported spending per child enrolled* | \$18,580 |

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

