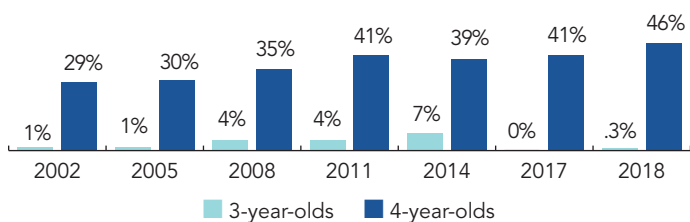
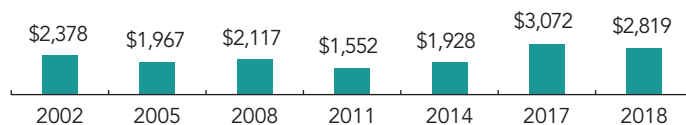


South Carolina

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2018 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

South Carolina preschool enrolled 27,519 children in 2017-2018, an increase of 3,440 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$77,572,655 up \$3,603,184 (5%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$2,819 in 2017-2018, down \$253 from 2016-2017, adjusted for inflation. South Carolina met 7 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

The South Carolina Department of Social Services was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2018 for \$3.45 million to increase access to quality early childhood programs and better align existing services to support a comprehensive system for all children.

South Carolina's Early Learning Standards (SC-ELS) were revised in 2017. The SC-ELS create a cohesive framework for early learning throughout the state, including the identification of approved curricula which will be implemented in 2018.

BACKGROUND

South Carolina funds two preschool programs: the Education Improvement Act Child Development Program (EIA 4K) and the public-private Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP). Both programs are delivered in public school settings via the South Carolina Department of Education's Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL). CERDEP is co-administered in private preschool settings by South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness (First Steps), the state's school readiness initiative.

EIA 4K, initiated in 1984, is funded as part of a one-cent sales tax supporting public education projects. State law limits eligibility for EIA 4K to children qualifying for free- or reduced-price lunch or Medicaid, and allows for consideration of children with documented developmental delays. State funding is allocated to districts by OELL using a formula according to the number of kindergarten students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch in each district. Participating school districts are required to offer, at minimum, a half-day pre-K program. Most school districts now provide full-day programs, with a few continuing to offer half-day programs.

CERDEP, originally called the Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP), is the state's other early education initiative. Created as a pilot program in 2006 in response to Abbeville County School District, et. al. v. South Carolina, a school equity funding lawsuit brought by rural school districts, the program was codified in 2014 along with the state's Read to Succeed legislation (Act 284). Children qualifying for free- or reduced-price lunch, those receiving Medicaid, or those with a documented developmental delay are eligible to participate in CERDEP.

To monitor quality, OELL conducts visits including an evaluation based on the ELLCO checklist used to provide feedback and support to ensure all classrooms are language- and literacy-rich. Some programs receive an additional level of monitoring which includes a fidelity verification measuring curriculum implementation. Feedback is provided to the teacher, school administrator, and/or the CERDEP district liaison/reading coach to provide post-observation feedback and set future goals.

First Steps' Regional 4K Coordinators make announced and unannounced monitoring and technical assistance visits twice monthly to CERDEP classrooms in private settings. These visits include unannounced evaluative monitoring using the ECERS-3, as well as measures of curricular fidelity with reflecting, goal-setting and action plans for programs.

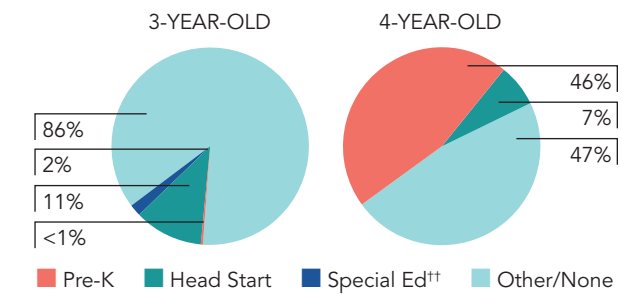
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
11	29	38	41	7

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILD EARLY READING DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM AND EIA/4K

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	27,519
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	4 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	4,938
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	10,593
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	SC PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (public); AA (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, P-3 (public); ECE, CD (nonpublic)	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Immunizations, developmental; Referrals	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input 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.

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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$77,572,655
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,819
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,071

* 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

