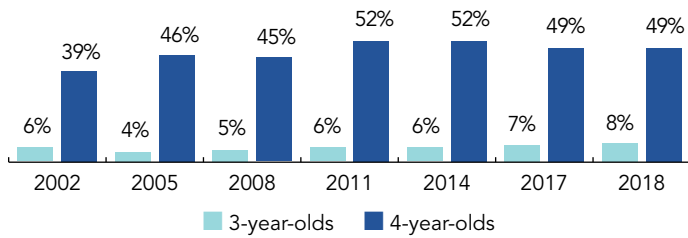
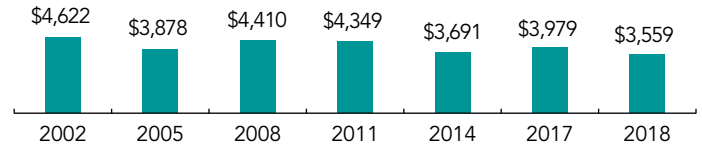


Texas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2018 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

Texas preschool enrolled 231,485 children in 2017-2018, an increase of 7,371 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$823,908,971, down \$67,736,584 (8%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$3,559 in 2017-2018, down \$419 from 2016-2017, adjusted for inflation. Texas met 4 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

In January 2019, Governor Abbott appointed 20 new members to the Texas Early Learning Council, which was originally established as the state's early childhood advisory council in 2009. Also, at the end of 2018, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) was awarded \$1,789,455 under the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five competition.

BACKGROUND

In 1985, Texas began funding half-day prekindergarten for eligible 4-year-olds through the Texas Public School Prekindergarten program. Currently, districts with 15 or more eligible 4-year-olds are required to offer prekindergarten. Districts with 15 or more eligible 3-year-olds can also offer prekindergarten, but are not required to do so. The TEA Early Childhood Education Division oversees the free program in school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, and school districts are permitted to subcontract with nonpublic preschools to serve eligible children.

Students are eligible to participate in the Texas Public School Prekindergarten program if they meet at least one of the following conditions: qualify for free or reduced-price lunch (185% of FPL), are homeless, are in foster care, have a parent on active military duty or who was injured or killed on active duty, are unable to speak or comprehend English, and/or have a parent eligible for the Star of Texas Award. Funding for half-day pre-K is based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and provided through the Foundation School Program as part of the K-12 funding system.

In 2015, the Texas Legislature provided funding for quality improvements in Texas Public School Prekindergarten programs. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools applied for grants to implement a High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program. To be eligible for funding, a school district or charter school agreed to use a curriculum aligned with the Prekindergarten Guidelines, increase prekindergarten teacher training and/or qualifications, implement student progress monitoring, provide kindergarten readiness results, and develop quality family engagement plans. The agency awarded funding to 573 district and charter schools.

In 2017, the Texas Legislature cut \$15 million in supplemental pre-K funding from the state's biennial budget, and did not continue funding the High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant program. However, that same year, lawmakers required school districts and charter schools with eligible 4-year-olds to use at least 15% of their state Foundation School Program funds on high-quality preschool efforts, and established a new prekindergarten-to-third grade teacher certification.

The Children's Learning Institute at the University of Texas-Health Science Center, in partnership with the TEA and Texas Workforce Commission, has developed a comprehensive professional development platform for early childhood educators that is free to all public school teachers, Head Start programs, and licensed child care centers participating in the state's quality rating and improvement system (QRIS), the Texas Rising Star program.

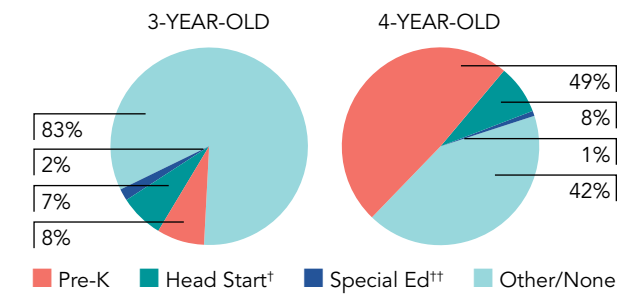
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
10	12	35	39	4

TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	231,485
School districts that offer state program	87%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	3 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	26,640
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	61,170
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	TX 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	Approval process & supports	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	P-6 (public)	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	150 hours/5 years (teachers only); Coaching in the grant funding 85% of children	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, immunizations	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	None	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

4

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$823,908,971
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,559
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,612

* 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

