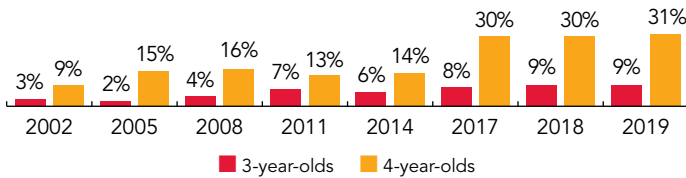
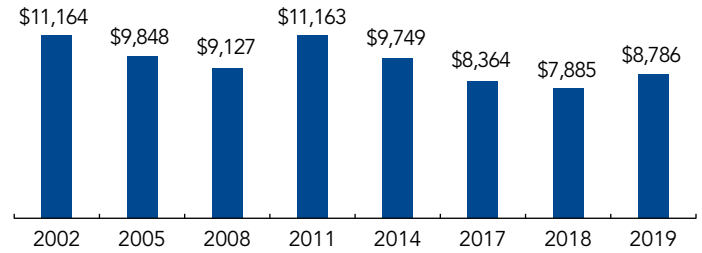


# Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2019 DOLLARS)



## OVERVIEW

Connecticut preschool programs enrolled 15,008 children in 2018-2019, an increase of 423 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$131,864,893, up \$16,866,664 (15%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$8,786 in 2018-2019, up \$902 from 2017-2018, adjusted for inflation. Connecticut met an average of 5 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

## WHAT'S NEW

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) was awarded a renewal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2019 for \$8.9 million to build on the work that began in 2018. The 2018 grant was intended to increase the state's ability to link families to needed services through aligning and improving coordination among existing agencies and programs; advance an infrastructure for data sharing across the silos of government to better support families; and design and implement a performance management approach focused on measurable child and family outcomes.

## BACKGROUND

Connecticut serves prekindergarten children in three state-funded programs: School Readiness Program (SR), Child Day Care Contracts (CDCC), and Smart Start, all supervised by the OEC. Non-Head Start SR, CDCC, and Smart Start programs have three years to become NAEYC accredited. Programs not NAEYC accredited or Head Start approved are required to have annual ECERS ratings by state-approved raters to help prepare them for accreditation.

Connecticut has provided funding for CDCC for 40 years through a purchase-of-service contracting system. The services provided through the Child Day Care contracts are supported through state funds and must operate for at least 10 hours per day. CDCC has been included in this report since 2014-2015, when the program's finance structure was revised in ways that meet the NIEER definition for a state-funded pre-K program. In 2018-2019, CDCC served 2,709 children, including 2,481 preschool-aged children. Eligibility requirements target children with household incomes below 75% SMI for state funding and/or children with household incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level for SSBG funds. CDCC programs, which must be licensed as a child care facility by the state, may operate under the contract held by an elementary or secondary school, nursery school, preschool, day care center, group child care home, family child care home, family resource center, Head Start program, or local or regional board of education.

SR was founded in 1997 to expand access to early childhood programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. Financial support is available to 21 Priority School Readiness districts, as defined by legislation, and 46 Competitive School Readiness municipalities that have at least one school in which 40% or more of children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, or fall within the 50 lowest wealth-ranked towns in the state. Any family can apply for School Readiness spaces in designated Priority or Competitive municipalities; however, 60% of children enrolled in each municipality must meet the income guideline of at-or-below 75% of the SMI.

Smart Start was created during the 2014 legislative session to expand publicly funded pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds in public school settings. Funding is distributed to local or regional boards of education through a competitive grant process. In 2018-2019, 24 school districts received funding to offer, at minimum, a six-hour, five-day-a-week program that operated for at least 1,080 hours per year.

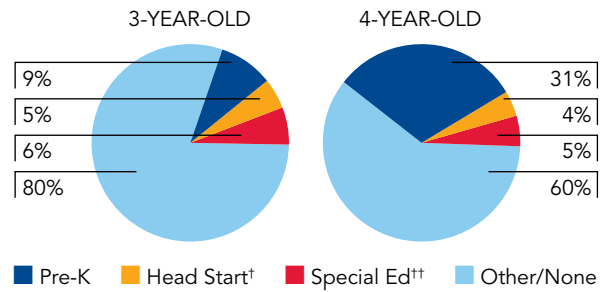
Connecticut's overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for CDCC, SR, and Smart Start is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on CDCC, the fourth on SR, and the fifth on Smart Start.

## CONNECTICUT STATE OVERVIEW

### ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	15,008
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	6,046
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	4,206
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	267

### PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

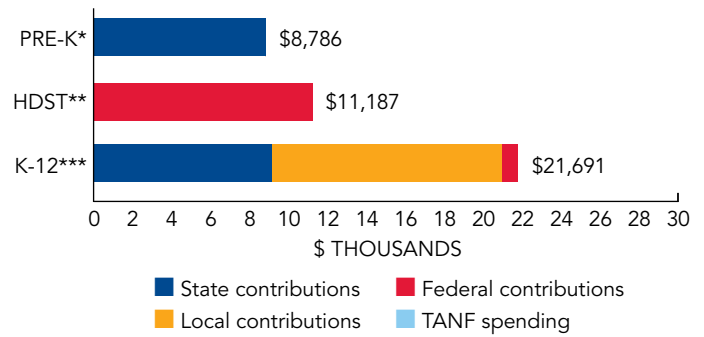


† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.  
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

### RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$131,864,893
State Head Start spending .....	\$5,083,238
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$8,786
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$8,786

### SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



\* 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.

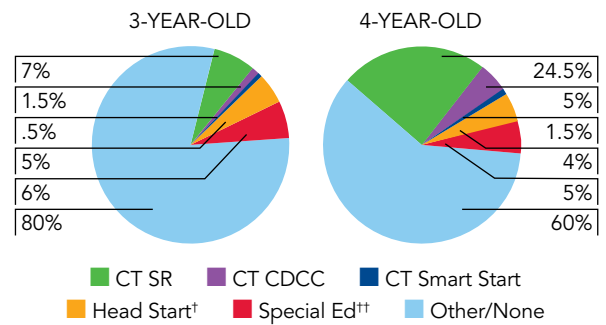
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
21	10	5	12	5

## CONNECTICUT CHILD DAY CARE CONTRACTS (CDCC)

### ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	2,481
School districts that offer state program ...	28% (towns/communities)
Income requirement .....	75% SMI
Minimum hours of operation .....	10 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	Full calendar year

### 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	CT CDCC REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	CDA + 12 EC credits	<b>BA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	CDA + 12 EC credits	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	PD 1% of total work hours; PD plans (some teachers and assistant teachers)	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Immunizations, full physical exam (no vision or hearing); Referrals not required	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations (non-NAEYC Accredited and non-Head Start programs only); Data used for program improvement	<b>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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### RESOURCES

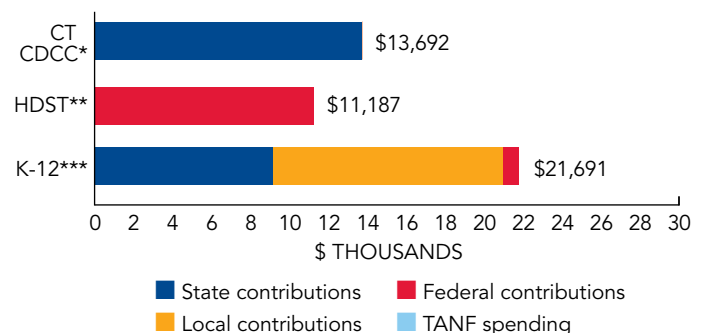
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$33,969,209
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$13,692
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$13,692

\* 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

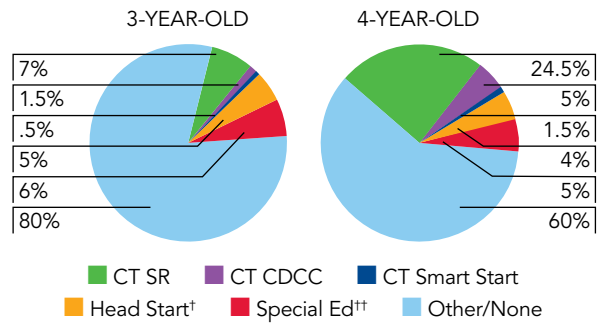


# CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS (SR)

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ..... 11,876  
 School districts that offer state program ... 40% (towns/communities)  
 Income requirement ..... No income requirement  
 Minimum hours of operation ..... 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week  
 Operating schedule ..... Determined locally

## 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	CT SR REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	CDA + 12 EC credits	<b>BA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	CDA + 12 EC credits	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	PD 1% of total work hours; PD plans (some teachers and assistant teachers)	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more; Referrals not required	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations (non-NAEYC Accredited and non-Head Start programs only); Data used for program improvement	<b>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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## RESOURCES

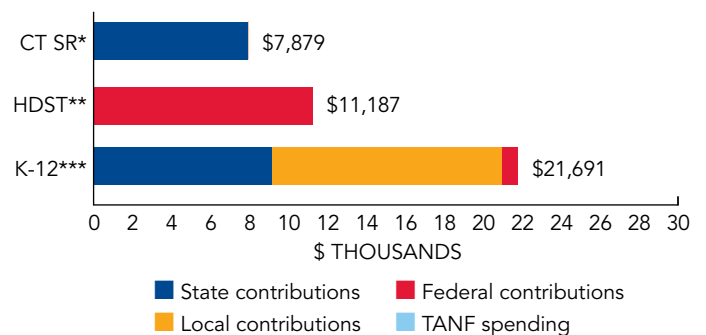
Total state pre-K spending ..... \$93,567,435  
 Local match required? ..... No  
 State spending per child enrolled ..... \$7,879  
 All reported spending per child enrolled\* ..... \$7,879

\* 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

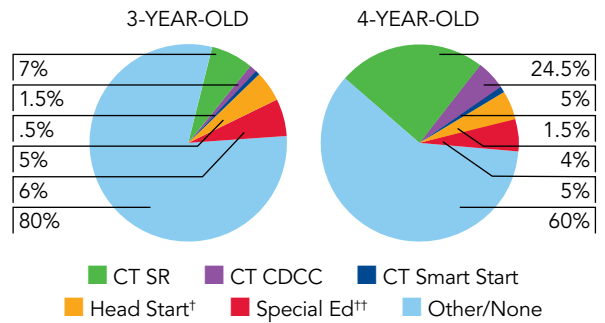


# CONNECTICUT SMART START

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	651
School districts that offer state program ...	14% (towns/communities)
Income requirement .....	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .....	6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	School or academic year

## 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	CT SMART START REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	<b>BA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Pre-K, EC, ECE SpEd	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	PD plans (teachers only)	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	18 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:9 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	None	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations (non-NAEYC Accredited programs); Data used for program improvement	<b>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</b>	<input 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 .....	\$4,328,249
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$6,649
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$6,649

\* 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

