

Puerto Rico

NO PROGRAM

Puerto Rico does not have a state-funded preschool program as defined in this report. However, the territory, which operates as one single school district, does support several early learning initiatives.

The Department of Education of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Education Council oversee elementary and secondary public education, monitor academic standards, and issue licenses to educational institutions. Programs for preschool-aged children are administered by the Administration for Integral Child Care and Development (ACUDEN) and the Department of Education has authority over early childhood special education. There are seven levels of education in Puerto Rico. Level 1 is nursery school for children under age 4, which is optional and consists of Early Head Start, Head Start, and other prekindergarten programs. Level 2 is compulsory preschool, also known as kindergarten, which is mandatory for 5-year-olds.

Puerto Rico has a 16-member Early Childhood Advisory Board (ECAB) administered by ACUDEN with representation from agencies responsible for Head Start, child care, education, higher education, and other constituent groups. ECAB was responsible for developing Unidos por la Niñez Temprana (United for Early Childhood), Puerto Rico's plan for providing services to children from birth through 5 years. In collaboration with the Department of Education, the ECAB developed and promoted the use of the Early Learning Guidelines by all early learning programs. Teachers, directors, and supervisors across various early learning programs received training in implementing the guidelines.

Puerto Rico has a five level quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) to measure the quality of infant, toddler, and preschool centers. ACUDEN partnered with the University of Puerto Rico and other government agencies to create and validate Puerto Rico's QRIS whose identification symbol is the Pasito (meaning "baby step"), with five Pasitos identifying a high-quality center. It is a voluntary self-assessment used in both private and public sectors.

In December 2019, Puerto Rico was awarded \$5,647,875 under the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five competition to support development, planning, and coordination of the territory's early learning system.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
No Program	

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
No Program

PUERTO RICO

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	0
School districts that offer state program	NA
Income requirement	NA
Minimum hours of operation	NA
Operating schedule.....	NA
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	6,634
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	26,680
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

NO PROGRAM

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$0
Local match required?	NA
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$0

* 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

