Ohio

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED

STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2020 DOLLARS)

OVERVIEW
Ohio preschool enrolled 17,870 children in 2019-2020, the same as the prior year. State funding totaled $71,480,000, down $1,040,770 (1%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled $4,000 in 2019-2020, down $58 from 2018-2019, adjusted for inflation. Ohio met 5 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT’S NEW
In March 2020, all state-funded preschool programs closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Preschool programs were allowed to re-open by June 2020 with reduced class sizes. While closed, state-funded preschool programs were not required to provide remote instruction but were provided guidance about deciding to offer remote learning, including taking into account children’s developmental age and parents’ availability. When programs re-opened in Fall 2020, they used a mix of in-person and remote instruction.

BACKGROUND
The Ohio Public Preschool Program (PSP), established in 1990 following a four-year pilot program, strives to ensure children have access to quality programs through public preschool and publicly funded child care. All types of programs have access to both public preschool and child care funds. This report focuses on the Ohio Department of Education’s publicly funded Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, excluding publicly funded child care and Head Start programs. Beginning in 2016-2017, grantees focused on serving as many 4-year-old children as possible, with a new policy that allowed 3-year-old children eligibility only if spots could not be filled by 4-year-old children by October 1.

Ohio is operating its publicly funded programs under common program and child standards, so a significant number of preschool-aged children receive services through a combination of these preschool programs, which are required to be highly rated. All Ohio ECE programs are required to be rated at 3 or more stars on the state’s QRIS.

Program sites are monitored annually for quality via desk audits, internal monitoring materials, proposal of plans and documentation, along with annual licensing visits, classroom observations, and child assessments. Ohio began using an expanded tiered QRIS in 2013-2014 for all state programs, including public preschool and child care programs. Programs are required to submit annual documentation of meeting or exceeding standards, including annual classroom observations of quality and regular on-site visits.

ACCESS RANKINGS
4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS
34 27

RESOURCE RANKINGS
STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING
29 35

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET 5

THE STATE OF PRESCHOOL 2020 - STATE PRESCHOOL YEARBOOK - NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EARLY EDUCATION RESEARCH - WWW.NIEER.ORG
OHIO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................... 17,870
School districts that offer state program ......................................60%
Income requirement ...........................................................200% FPL
Minimum hours of operation ....................................... 2.5 hours/day
Operating schedule .................................... School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......................... 16,574
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......... 26,905
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4......................... 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | OH PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK
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Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive ✓
Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports ✓
Teacher degree | AA | BA ☐
Teacher specialized training | ECE, CD, ECE SpEd (public); ECE, CD (nonpublic) | Specializing in pre-K ✓
Assistant teacher degree | HSD | CDA or equivalent ☐
Staff professional development | 20 hours/2 years; PD plans | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching ☐
Maximum class size | 24 (3-year-olds); 28 (4-year-olds) | 20 or lower ☐
Staff-child ratio | 1:12 (3-year-olds); 1:14 (4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better ☐
Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, health & more | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral ✓
Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement ✓

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

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ................................................... $71,480,000
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State Head Start spending .................................................. $0
State spending per child enrolled .......................................... $4,000
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $4,000

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.