West Virginia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>3-year-olds</th>
<th>4-year-olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2020 DOLLARS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>3-year-olds</th>
<th>4-year-olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$5,391</td>
<td>$6,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$6,484</td>
<td>$6,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$6,786</td>
<td>$6,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$7,090</td>
<td>$7,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$6,975</td>
<td>$7,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$7,090</td>
<td>$7,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$7,422</td>
<td>$6,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$6,394</td>
<td>$6,394</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERVIEW

West Virginia preschool enrolled 15,142 children in 2019-2020, an increase of 1,608 children from the prior year. State funding totaled $90,636,501 and $6,175,820 in TANF funds were also used to support the program, down $3,638,304 (4%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child (including TANF funds) equaled $6,394 in 2019-2020, down $1,028 from 2018-2019, adjusted for inflation. West Virginia met 9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

Effective July 1, 2018, children enrolled in pre-K must be four years old prior to July 1 in the year in which they are enrolled in the program based on legislative rule. Previously, the enrollment age cutoff date was September 1. This change created a one-year drop in pre-K enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year. In West Virginia, state aid funding for the 2019-2020 school year was based on the 2018-2019 enrollment. Based on 2019-2020 enrollment, estimated 2020-2021 funding reflects an increase of over $10 million.

WHAT’S NEW

On March 16, 2020, as ordered by the Governor, all state-funded preschool programs in West Virginia physically closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All pre-K programs were required to provide remote learning opportunities for enrolled pre-K families through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The state provided guidance to programs to support remote learning. The Governor delayed the start of the 2020-2021 school year until September 8, 2020 and there was a mix of in-person, blended, and remote instruction based on each county’s re-entry plan and the School Re-entry Metrics and Protocols map. All state-funded preschool programs returned to in-person instruction by March 2021.

BACKGROUND

West Virginia introduced public preschool in 1983 for 3- and 4-year-olds through the Public School Early Childhood Education program. In 2002, legislation passed that required pre-K to be available to all 4-year-olds by 2012. Today, West Virginia’s Universal Pre-K System provides pre-K programs in all 55 counties in the state, serving 4-year-olds, as well as some 3-year-olds with special needs, and some kindergarten-eligible children if it is determined that kindergarten placement is not in the child’s best interest.

Public schools receive West Virginia Universal Pre-K funding directly, with half of all programs required to partner with child care centers, private pre-K, or Head Start agencies to meet demand. During the 2019-2020 school year, the collaboration rate was 82%. Programs are permitted to use additional funding from IDEA and federal Head Start.

As of July 2013, all new lead teachers in nonpublic settings are required to have at least a BA in ECE or a related field and, as of July 2014, all assistant teachers are required to apply for the Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher Authorization, which requires a CDA or equivalent, as determined by the West Virginia Board of Education. West Virginia also increased instructional days per year and hours per week to at least 1,500 minutes (25 hours) of instruction per week and 48,000 minutes (800 hours) of instruction per year. Programs must operate no fewer than four days per week.

The West Virginia Universal Pre-K program is undergoing a multiyear study to assess the effects of program participation. Programs develop monitoring systems to offer ongoing continuous quality improvement, using monitoring tools recognized by a local collaborative team. Children are assessed three times per year using the Early Learning Scale, and this information is used to track child and program outcomes over time, guide teacher professional development and coaching, make adjustments to curricula, and measure kindergarten readiness.
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSAL PRE-K

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................... 15,142
School districts that offer state program ..... 100% (counties/parishes)
Income requirement No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation 25 hours/week; 4 days/week
Operating schedule School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 2,830
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 6,771
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY W V PRE-K REQUIREMENT BENCHMARK REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive ✓
Curriculum supports Approval process & supports Approval process & supports ✓
Teacher degree BA BA ✓
Teacher specialized training ECE, CD, ECE SpEd Specializing in pre-K ✓
Assistant teacher degree CDA CDA or equivalent ✓
Staff professional development 15 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching (classroom collaborating with Head Start) For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching □
Maximum class size 20 (3- & 4-year-olds) 20 or lower ✓
Staff-child ratio 1:10 (3- & 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 ................................................... $96,812,321
Local match required? No
State Head Start spending ................................................... $0
State spending per child enrolled ................................................... $6,394
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................................... $10,313

* 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.

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

Data are for the 2019-2020 school year, unless otherwise noted.