Wisconsin

**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>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>1%</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>$5,944</td>
<td>Not reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$4,597</td>
<td>$4,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$4,076</td>
<td>$4,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$4,194</td>
<td>$3,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$4,196</td>
<td>$4,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$4,096</td>
<td>$3,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$4,096</td>
<td>Not reported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OVERVIEW**

Wisconsin preschool enrolled 51,869 children in 2019-2020, an increase of 251 children from the prior year. State funding totaled $6,264,100 for the Wisconsin Head Start State Supplement program and state spending per child was $10,528. Wisconsin did not report 2019-2020 spending for the Wisconsin 4K program. Wisconsin met an average of 3 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

**WHAT’S NEW**

In March 2020, all state-funded preschool programs closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the state provided written guidance that highlighted and focused on appropriate amounts of screen time for young children, engaging families by supporting their children at home through developmentally appropriate practices, and statewide sharing of resources, networking and support with 4K providers through a series of networking calls from Spring until mid-September. Additionally, there was technical assistance in seeking resources for families that could not access remote learning due to lack of technology and/or internet connections.

**BACKGROUND**

Since becoming a state in 1848, Wisconsin’s Constitution has included a promise to provide free, voluntary education for 4-year-olds. School districts are not required to offer the Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program (4K), but if they do, it must be open to all age eligible children. During the 2018-2019 school year, 405 of 411 school districts, that could offer 4K, offered the program (99%).

Funding for 4K is part of the overall school funding formula. For state aid purposes, 4K students are counted as 0.5 or 0.6 full time equivalent (FTE), depending on the services the schools provide. Districts receive .6 FTE if they offer an additional 87.5 hours of parent outreach. Funds for 4K are distributed to public schools, which may subcontract and collaborate with private child-care centers, community-based programs, faith-based centers, family child care providers, or Head Start agencies. The state funds a total of 437 instructional hours per year and operating schedules are locally determined. Most programs operate part-day, four or five days per week; while some operate full-day, two or three days per week.

The Wisconsin Head Start State Supplement program is a separate program offering supplemental state funding to federal Head Start grantees to provide comprehensive early childhood education for Early Head Start and Head Start eligible children and families. Participating programs follow the federal Head Start Performance Standards. Ongoing collaborative efforts bring together Head Start technical assistance and training with other professional development efforts at both the state and local levels.

Wisconsin’s overall support for state-funded preschool for both the 4K program and Head Start State Supplement is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on the 4K program and the fourth page provides information on the Wisconsin Head Start State Supplement.
WISCONSIN STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................... 51,869
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............................ 8,930
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 11,146
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4............... 595

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ...........................................Not reported
State Head Start spending .............................................. $6,264,100
State spending per child enrolled ................................Not reported
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................Not reported

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

Percent of population enrolled in public ECE

Pre-K  Head Start†  Special Ed††  Other/None
3-YEAR-OLD
.7%  10%  10%  86%
4-YEAR-OLD
72%  7%  21%

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
4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS
3 30

RESOURCE RANKINGS
STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING
35* 27*

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
3

Wisconsin 4K did not report spending for the 2019-2020 school year so it was estimated based on 2018-2019 reported data.

Data are for the 2019-2020 school year, unless otherwise noted.
WISCONSIN FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN (4K)

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................... 51,274
School districts that offer state program ........................................ 99%
Income requirement ............................................................... No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ................................................... 2.5 hours/day
Operating schedule .............................................................. Determined locally

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>WI 4K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned with other state standards, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>PD plans (public teachers); Coaching (some nonpublic)</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>Determined locally</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>Determined locally</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Immunizations, medical examinations; Referrals determined locally</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Determined locally</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ................................................... Not reported
Local match required? ........................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ........................................... Not reported
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ Not reported

* 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

3-YEAR-OLDS
- .2%
- .5%
- 10%
- 3.3%
- 86%

4-YEAR-OLDS
- 71.5%
- 5.5%
- 7%
- 21%

POLICY WI 4K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?

Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned with other state standards, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | No |
Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | Yes |
Teacher degree | BA | BA | Yes |
Teacher specialized training | ECE | Specializing in pre-K | Yes |
Assistant teacher degree | Other | CDA or equivalent | No |
Staff professional development | PD plans (public teachers); Coaching (some nonpublic) | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | No |
Maximum class size | Determined locally | 20 or lower | No |
Staff-child ratio | Determined locally | 1:10 or better | No |
Screening & referral | Immunizations, medical examinations; Referrals determined locally | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | No |
Continuous quality improvement system | Determined locally | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | No |

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

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- WI 4K* | Not reported |
- HDST** | $10,973 |
- K-12*** | $14,143 |

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

Total state pre-K enrollment .......................................................... 595

School districts that offer state program ........................................ 98% (Federal HdSt grantees)

Income requirement ................................................................. Per Federal HdSt requirements

Minimum hours of operation ....................................................... 3.5 hours/day

Operating schedule ................................................................. Per Federal HdSt requirements

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>WI HDST REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>AA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE, Per Federal HdSt requirements</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>CDA</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>15 hours/year</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>17 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>2:17 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations per federal Head Start Performance Standards; Data used for program improvement at local level only</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ....................................................... $6,264,100

Local match required? ................................................................ No

State spending per child enrolled ............................................ $10,528

All reported spending per child enrolled* .............................. $10,528

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* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
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*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

## SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

![Spending Per Child Enrolled Chart](chart.png)

- **State contributions**
- **Federal contributions**
- **Local contributions**
- **TANF spending**

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