OVERVIEW


WHAT’S NEW

In December 2019, Guam was one of 6 states and territories that was awarded an initial PDG B-5 planning grant for $1,000,000 to develop a needs assessment and strategic plan.

In Spring 2020, state-funded preschool programs closed in public schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in approximately 67 fewer instructional days for preschool children. All programs re-opened in Fall 2020, but were fully remote.

BACKGROUND

The Guam Department of Education’s publicly funded Pilot Prekindergarten Program is available in all four regions of the territory’s single school district. Each region has one Prekindergarten Program classroom located within a public school. All age-eligible children may enroll in the program, which has no income limit for eligibility. Guam’s Prekindergarten Program operates six hours a day, five days a week, following the school year or academic calendar, and providing 978 hours of services per year. Both lunch and breakfast are served to children attending the program.

The program’s maximum class size is 18 children, with a teacher-to-student ratio of 1 to 9. Lead teachers are required to have an associate degree with early childhood education specialization and either pre-K or pre-K to 2nd grade certification. Lead teachers also are required to participate in 30 clock hours of in-service professional development annually. Assistant teachers are required to hold a high school diploma, but are not required to participate in any professional development.

A formal evaluation of the program was conducted by the Guam Department of Education’s Administrator for Research, Planning & Evaluation in 2018 and is currently under review by the Guam Education Board.
GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PILOT PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .............................................................. 71
School districts that offer state program .......................................... 100%
Income requirement ................................................................. No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ........................................................ 6 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................................. School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......................................... 97
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ...................... 534
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................................. 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | GUAM PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS 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 | Specializing in pre-K | ✓
Assistant teacher degree | HSD | CDA or equivalent | □
Staff professional development | 30 hours/year (teachers only); PD plans (teachers only); Coaching (teachers only) | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | □
Maximum class size | 18 (4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✓
Staff-child ratio | 1:9 (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 .......................................................... $385,434
Local match required? ................................................................. No
State Head Start spending ........................................................... $0
State spending per child enrolled .................................................. $5,429
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................. $5,429

* 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

PRE-K* | $5,429
HDST** | $6,937
K-12*** | Data not available

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