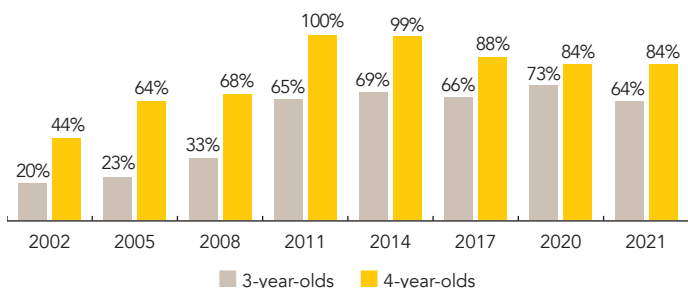
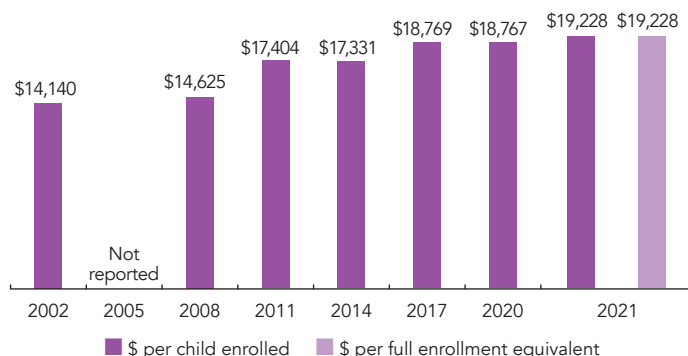


# District of Columbia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2021 DOLLARS)



## OVERVIEW

During the 2020-2021 school year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued, the District of Columbia enrolled 12,923 children, a decrease of 970 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$248,301,087 with an additional \$182,000 in federal recovery funds to support the program, down \$12,241,541 (5%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$19,228 in 2020-2021, up \$461 from 2019-2020, adjusted for inflation. The District of Columbia met 4 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

## WHAT'S NEW

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a mix of in-person and remote instruction throughout the 2020-2021 school year. In the 2021-2022 school year, programs returned to in-person instruction. The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), the state education agency, initiated several changes to address/mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including changing required in-person screenings, allowing for provisional types of screening, and changes to the enrollment process. These policies supported families and DC Public Schools (DCPS), public charter schools (PCS) and community-based organizations (CBOs) with meeting enrollment requirements.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the District removed many of the COVID-19 exceptions and policy changes. Health and safety requirements, including mask requirements for students and teachers and exclusion and quarantine protocols remain in place.

## BACKGROUND

Among the first in the nation to invest in early education, the District has offered pre-K since the 1960s. DC began to bolster its investment in pre-K significantly through the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Amendment Act of 2008 (Pre-K Act). The Pre-K Act provides public, quality, universally accessible pre-K via a mixed-delivery system in DCPS, PCS, and publicly-funded CBOs that participate in the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program. OSSE oversees the District's Universal Pre-K Program, including programs in DCPS and CBOs. PCSs are authorized and monitored by the DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB). Additionally, the District's Head Start and Early Head Start programs help thousands of children and their families through early learning and comprehensive services and supports.

Pre-K programs operate five days a week for a minimum of 6.5 hours per day and a minimum of 180 instructional days per year. Given the high availability and participation, this program can be considered universal, as the District has a higher percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled than any U.S. state or territory. Funding for public pre-K programs is based on the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula, with spending per pupil adjusted through a series of weights for higher-cost grade levels and supplemental funding weights for students with additional needs.

Program quality is measured using the CLASS Pre-K, which informs a school rating that is included on each school's DC School Report Card. The PCSB also uses CLASS Pre-K in its Performance Management Framework, which provides all public charter local education agencies with an annual score. For CBOs, CLASS Pre-K assessments are used for Capital Quality, the District's QRIS. Required CLASS Pre-K observations were suspended due to the COVID-19 public health emergency during the 2020-2021 school year, however; schools and CBOs had the opportunity to opt into virtual observations for purposes of professional development and support.

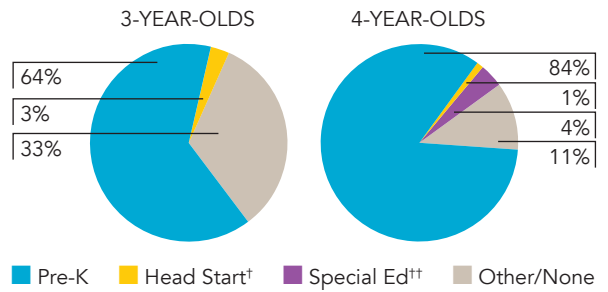
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
1	1	1	1	4

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSAL PRE-K

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	12,923
School districts that offer state program .....	100% (wards)
Income requirement .....	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .....	6.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	1,170
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	468
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	0

## PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.  
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	DC PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (DCPS & CBO); Determined locally (PCS)	<b>BA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, Elem. Ed., ECE SpEd, SpEd (DCPS); ECE, CD (CBO); Determined locally (PCS)	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Paraprofessional Certification (DCPS); AA (CBO); Determined locally (PCS)	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	25 hours/year (DCPS teachers); 30 hours/year (CBO teachers); 6 days/year (DCPS assistant teachers); 21 hours/year (CBO assistant teachers); Determined locally (PCS); Coaching (DCPS & CBO)	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	DCPS & CBO only: 16 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	DCPS & CBO only: 1:8 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	<b>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

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## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$248,483,087
Local match required? .....	No
State Head Start spending .....	\$0
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$19,228
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$19,228

\* 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

