OVERVIEW
During the 2021-2022 school year, Texas preschool enrolled 222,424 children, an increase of 26,203 children from the prior year as the program began to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. State spending totaled $846,690,464 and an additional $24,680,790 in federal recovery funds supported the program, up $122,950,371 (16%), adjusted for inflation since last year. State spending per child (including federal recovery dollars) equaled $4,267 in 2021-2022, up $151 from 2020-2021, adjusted for inflation. Texas met 4 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW
For the second year, programs serving 4-year-olds were required to provide full-day services, while programs serving 3-year-olds had the option to continue to provide half-day services. Some programs were granted a waiver from providing full-day programs for 4-year-olds for a limited time to allow for transition from half day to full day. Legislation was recently passed in Texas limiting preschool class sizes to 22 children. Prior to this legislation, there was no limit for public preschool class size.

The Texas Workforce Commission received a $16 million Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B–5) renewal grant in December of 2022. Texas is committed to the vision of ensuring all children are ready for school. Through this renewal grant, Texas will support this vision by engaging families as leaders, connecting families to services, supporting local systems building, strengthening the early childhood care and education (ECCE) workforce, building the ECCE workforce, expanding access to high-quality programs, and developing a statewide integrated data system.

BACKGROUND
In 1985, Texas began funding half-day prekindergarten for eligible 4-year-olds through the Texas Public School Prekindergarten program. Currently, districts with 15 or more eligible 4-year-olds are required to offer prekindergarten. Districts with 15 or more eligible 3-year-olds can also offer prekindergarten but are not required to do so. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Early Childhood Education Division oversees the free program in school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, and school districts are permitted to subcontract with nonpublic preschools to serve eligible children.

Students are eligible to participate in the Texas Public School Prekindergarten program if they meet at least one of the following conditions: qualify for free or reduced-price lunch (185% of FPL), are homeless, are in foster care, have a parent on active military duty or who was injured or killed on active duty, are unable to speak or comprehend English, and/or have a parent eligible for the Star of Texas Award.

In 2019, Texas used PDG B–5 funding to conduct a statewide 0-5 needs assessment, develop a statewide 0-5 strategic plan, increase parental choice and knowledge, share best practices, and improve overall quality of care. This work was led by the PDG team and the Texas Early Learning Council. Also in 2019, House Bill (HB) 3 was passed by the 86th Texas Legislature and signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 11. HB 3 impacts districts and open-enrollment charter schools serving pre-K through third grade students by addressing early education allotment, full-day high-quality pre-K for eligible 4-year-olds, expanded early education reporting, early learning progress monitoring tools (single kindergarten assessment with one alternative available), and early childhood partnerships.

The Children’s Learning Institute at the University of Texas-Health Science Center, in partnership with the TEA and Texas Workforce Commission, has developed a comprehensive professional development platform for early childhood educators that is free to all public school teachers, Head Start programs, families, and child care providers.
### ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................. 222,424  
School districts that offer state program ................................... 90%  
Income requirement ............................................................. 185% FPL  
Minimum hours of operation ...... 32,400 minutes/year; 5 days/week  
Operating schedule ......................................................... School or academic year  
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......................... 26,017  
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............ 54,136  
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................. 0

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>TX PRE-K 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</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>P–6</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>30 hours/year &amp; PD plans (teachers only); Coaching (some teachers)</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>22 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>No limit (3-year-olds); Must strive for 1:11 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, immunizations</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement at the 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.  
* Indicates that while policy meets the benchmark, it is not being implemented fully.

### RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ................................................. $871,371,254  
Local match required? ..................................................... No  
State Head Start spending ................................................ $0  
State spending per child enrolled ......................... $4,267  
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................... $4,971

* 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

Data are for the 2021-2022 school year, unless otherwise noted.