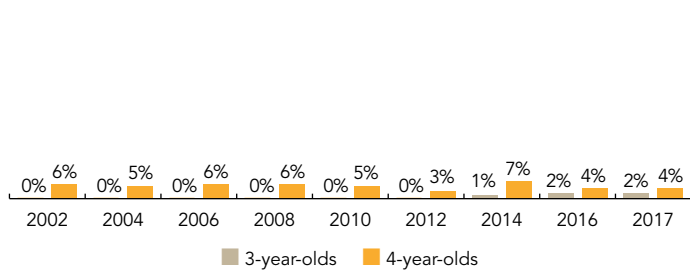
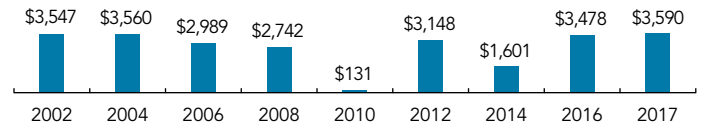


# Arizona

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2017 DOLLARS)



Arizona began funding preschool programs in 1991. Supplemental services for preschool, full-day kindergarten, and first through third grade education were supported by the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) from 1996 to 2010. Children from families with incomes at or less than 185% of the federal poverty level qualified for ECBG-funded programs. ECBG funds were distributed to school districts with the requirement that some of the funds were passed through to private childcare centers or faith-based programs. ECBG funds were frozen in fiscal year 2010, due to budget constraints, and then revoked.

In 2006, Arizona voters established a dedicated funding source, using tobacco taxes, for early childhood development and health programs, and created the Early Childhood Development and Health Board, known as First Things First (FTF), to oversee use of those funds. The FTF Board allocates public funds to communities based on their birth to five population and the percentage of young children in poverty. Informed by local data, volunteer regional councils prioritize and recommend early childhood programs to fund. These public funds can be used for various early childhood programs, including increasing access to early learning. This is accomplished through Quality First (QF) Scholarships serving young children living at or below 200% FPL.

Private child care, public schools, Head Start settings, tribally regulated programs, family child care homes, and faith-based programs are eligible to receive QF Scholarships as long as they participate in Quality First, the state's Quality Improvement and Rating System (QIRS) and have met at least a three-star rating on the QIRS quality standards. QF Scholarship reimbursement rates vary by program type.

In the 2016-2017 school year, there were 5,285 preschool-aged children served in center-based programs. Funding remained steady in 2016-2017 after allocations of early childhood funds to regional councils decreased in 2015-2016 due to a 24% drop in tobacco tax revenue between 2007 to 2015 (about \$40 million less per year) and a projection that tobacco revenues would continue to decrease. In response, the FTF Board determined that a budget reset was necessary to ensure consistent funding levels over the next nine to 15 years. As a result, regional spending on QF Scholarships decreased by 38% between 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Despite the decrease, the scholarships remain the highest funded program at FTF (34% of total program spending).

QF Scholarships also help Arizona draw down a greater amount of federal funds for child care vouchers to working families. Arizona receives more than \$125 million per year in federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds, which are administered by the state Department of Economic Security (DES) and require the state to provide both Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and matching funds. Historically, these requirements were met with state General Fund dollars appropriated by the Legislature. In fiscal year 2012, all General Fund appropriations to child care vouchers were eliminated. FTF collaborated with DES to leverage FTF investments in early learning quality and access (including scholarships) to meet federal MOE and state match requirements. In the eight years the agreement has been in place, it has allowed Arizona to draw down more than \$302 million in federal CCDF funds that otherwise would have been lost.

In 2014, Arizona was awarded a federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) award, providing funding for access to preschool for 2,307 children in 15 high-needs communities statewide in 2016-2017. The PDG also enhanced the quality of those programs by funding their participation in the state QIRS, which includes on-site and inclusive coaching, mental health consultation, child care health consultation, community-based professional development and college scholarships for early educators, and financial incentives.

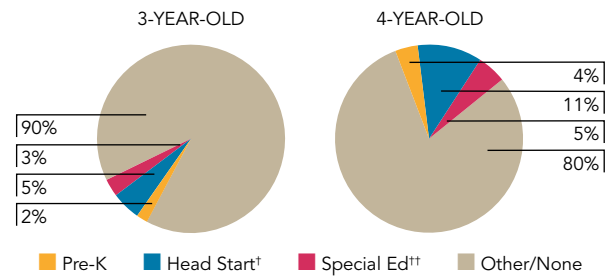
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	CURRENT STANDARDS	NEW STANDARDS
39	21	32	39	3	3

## QUALITY FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS

### ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	5,285
School districts that offer state program .....	86% (Regional Partnership Councils)
Income requirement.....	200% FPL
Minimum hours of operation.....	3 hours/day; 3 days/week
Operating schedule.....	Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	9,098
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	14,713
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



\* Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.  
 \*\* Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	AZ PRE-K REQUIREMENT	CURRENT BENCHMARK	MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?	NEW BENCHMARK	MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	New in 2015-2016	—	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	12 credit hours in ECE, CDA (25% of teachers)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>BA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	12 credit hours in ECE, CDA (25% of teachers)	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	18 hours/year	For teachers: At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	26 (3-year-olds); 30 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:13 (3-year-olds); 1:15 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Immunizations; Support services	Vision, hearing, health & at least one support service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depends on length of program day	At least one meal/day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discontinued</b>	—
Monitoring/ Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			<b>3</b>		
				<b>3</b>	

### RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$18,972,738
Local match required? .....	No
State Head Start spending .....	\$0
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$3,590
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$3,590

\* 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

