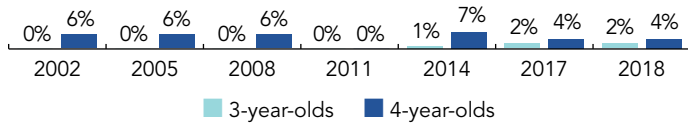


Arizona

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2018 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

Arizona preschool enrolled 5,256 children in 2017-2018, a decrease of 29 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$21,307,301, up \$1,682,864 (9%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$4,054 in 2017-2018, up \$341 from 2016-2017, adjusted for inflation. Arizona met 3 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

The Arizona Department of Education was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2018 for nearly \$1.4 million to accelerate its collaborative work on two key Arizona Education Progress Meter goals: first to increase the percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children enrolled in high-quality early learning settings; and second to increase the percentage of 3rd grade students who score Proficient or Highly Proficient on the AzMerit Grade 3 English Language Arts assessment.

BACKGROUND

Arizona began funding preschool programs in 1991 with supplemental services for preschool, full-day kindergarten, and first through third grade education supported by the federal Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) from 1996 until 2010 when that funding ended.

In 2006, Arizona voters earmarked tobacco tax revenues for early childhood development and health programs and created the Early Childhood Development and Health Board, known as First Things First (FTF), to oversee those funds. FTF allocates those funds to communities based on the birth to five population and percentage of young children in poverty. Volunteer regional councils 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.

Dramatic decreases in tobacco tax revenues in recent years prompted sharp drops in program funding, including Quality First (QF) Scholarships (a 24% drop in tobacco tax revenue between 2007 to 2015, about \$40 million less per year). Regular projections of the tobacco tax revenue indicate this decrease would continue. In response, the FTF Board determined that a budget reset was necessary to ensure consistent funding levels over the next nine to fifteen years.

Arizona also received federal funding to support pre-K programs through the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) in 15 high-needs communities during 2017-2018 and to enhance quality through the state QRIS. As a result of four years of PDG funding, 4,569 children received their early education from providers committed to continuous quality improvement, including 3,486 children (76%) whose early learning provider met or exceeded quality standards. Participation in the state QRIS provides programs with on-site coaching, mental health consultation, child care health consultation, professional development and college scholarships for early educators, along with financial incentives. In addition, FTF collaborates with the state to meet federal match requirements to draw down more than \$184 million per year in federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds.

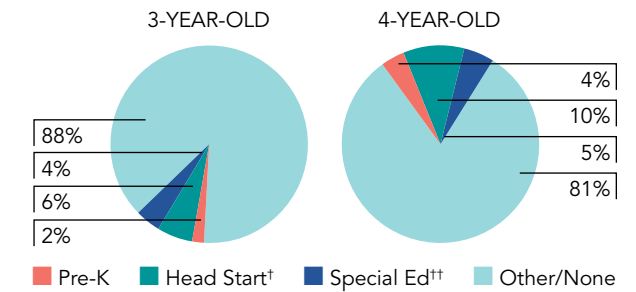
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
41	21	28	37	3

QUALITY FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	5,256
School districts that offer state program	86% (Regional Partnership Councils)
Income requirement	200% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	34 hours/month; 8 days/month
Operating schedule	Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,590
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	13,814
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† 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	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	12 credit hours in ECE, CDA (25% of teachers)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	12 credit hours in ECE, CDA (25% of teachers)	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	18 hours/year	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	26 (3-year-olds); 30 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:13 (3-year-olds); 1:15 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Immunizations	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

3

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$21,307,301
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,054
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,054

* 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

