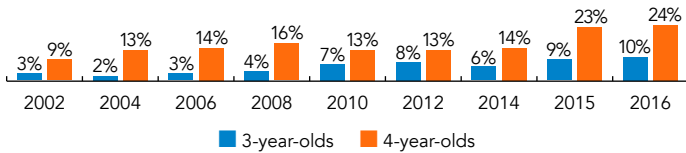


# Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2016 DOLLARS)



Connecticut serves prekindergarten children in three state-funded programs: School Readiness Program (SRP), Child Day Care Contracts (CDCC), and the new program Smart Start. As of July 2013, the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) provides oversight for these programs and has been working to better align them. In previous years, parent fees for participation in CDCC were re-determined every six months, which did not meet the NIEER definition of a state-funded preschool program, therefore excluding it from the Yearbook. Due to a policy change of re-calculating fees annually, and the provision that allows families that are over income to remain enrolled, CDCC is included in Connecticut's entry this year for the second time.

SRP was founded in 1997 to increase access to early childhood programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. Financial support is available to 20 Priority School Readiness districts, as defined by legislation, and 47 Competitive School Readiness municipalities that have one or more schools in which 40% or more of the children are eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch or are one of the communities identified within the 50 lowest-wealth-ranked towns in the state, as defined by legislation. All families, regardless of income levels, can apply for School Readiness spaces in Competitive and Priority municipalities; however, 60% of children enrolled in each municipality must meet the income guideline of at-or-below 75% of the state median income (SMI). In 2015-2016, SRP enrolled 12,263 three- and four-year-olds in full-day, school-day, or part-day programs, a small increase from the previous year. FY2016 state funding increased to \$119.1 million from \$101.8 million the previous year.

CDCC are jointly funded through state funding and the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) and must operate for at least 10 hours per day. In 2015-2016, CDCC enrolled 2,387 preschool-age children, targeting children with household incomes below 75% SMI with state funding and targeting children with household incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level with SSBG funds. Although CDCC served fewer 3- and 4-year-olds in 2015-2016, the program had a slight increase in the number of infants and toddlers served. CDCC programs, which do not operate in public schools, are reimbursed through a purchase-of-service contracting system administered by OEC.

Smart Start was created during the 2014 legislative session with the intent of expanding publicly funded pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds in public school settings. Funding is distributed to local or regional boards of education through a competitive grant process. In 2015-2016, 13 school districts received funding to offer the six-hour, five-day-a-week program that operated 1,080 hours per year. In addition to the \$1.6 million in state funds (Tobacco Settlement dollars) for operations, \$1.4 million in state bonds were used for capital improvements.

SRP, Smart Start, and CDCC non-Head Start programs must be NAEYC accredited. Pre-K programs operating within public schools, private child care centers, and faith-based settings have until the third anniversary of the first day children attend the program to achieve accreditation. To help prepare programs that are not accredited and to monitor quality, annual ECERS ratings by state-approved raters are required.

In 2014, Connecticut was awarded a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant-Expansion. In 2015-2016, there were a total of 712 PDG-funded preschool spaces in the state, 430 were new preschool slots that operated separately from the three state-funded preschool programs, 244 spaces were dually funded in combination with SRP, and 35 spaces were dually funded with CDCC. These dually funded spaces are included in the programs' total enrollment counts.

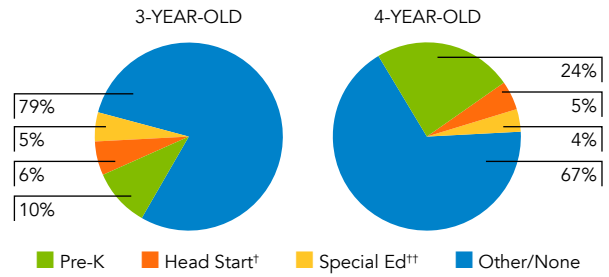
Connecticut's contribution and commitment to state-funded prekindergarten, including state expenditure and enrollment for all three state programs are summarized in the first two pages of the state profile, followed by descriptions of CDCC, SRP and Smart Start.

# CONNECTICUT STATE OVERVIEW

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	14,940
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	5,466
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	4,888
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	303

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

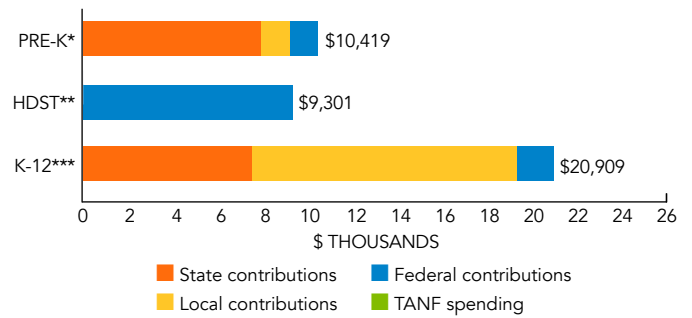


† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.  
 \*\* Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$118,102,226
State Head Start spending .....	\$5,630,593
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$7,905
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$10,419

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



\* 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.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
23	8

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
6	4

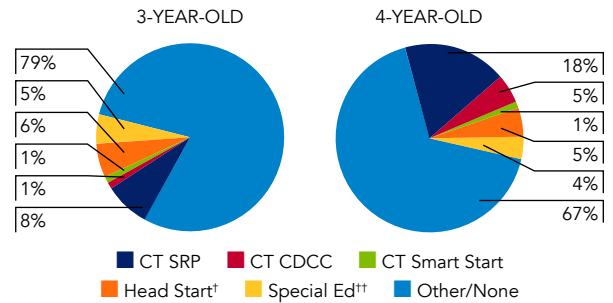
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
CURRENT STANDARDS	NEW STANDARDS
5.2	4.8

# CONNECTICUT CHILD DAY CARE CONTRACTS

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ..... 2,387  
 School districts that offer state program ..... 28% (towns/communities)  
 Income requirement ..... 75% SMI  
 Minimum hours of operation ..... 10 hours/day; 5 days/week  
 Operating schedule ..... Full calendar year  
 Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..... 5,466  
 Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..... 4,888

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



† 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

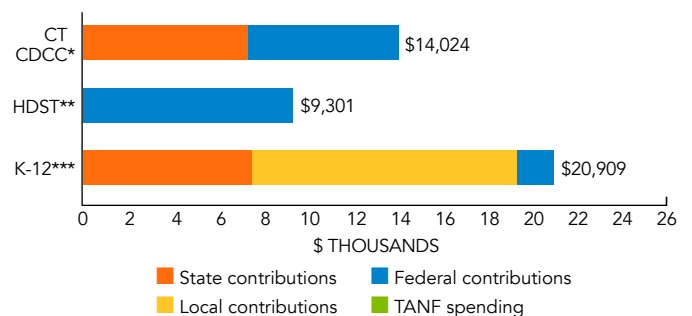
POLICY	CT CDCC REQUIREMENT	CURRENT BENCHMARK	MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?	NEW BENCHMARK	MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned with other state standards, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	New in 2015-2016	—	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	CDA + 12 EC credits <sup>13</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	CDA + 12 EC credits <sup>13</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Based on Head Start or NAEYC	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	20 hours/year	For teachers: At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Immunizations, full physical exam, no vision or hearing; Support services	Vision, hearing, health & at least one support service	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Breakfast, lunch, snack	At least one meal/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discontinued	—
Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system	Annual structured classroom observations in low performing classrooms only; Improvement plan <sup>18</sup>	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<b>6</b>		
					<b>4</b>

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ..... \$17,442,645  
 Local match required? ..... No  
 State spending per child enrolled ..... \$7,307  
 All reported spending per child enrolled\* ..... \$14,024

\* 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

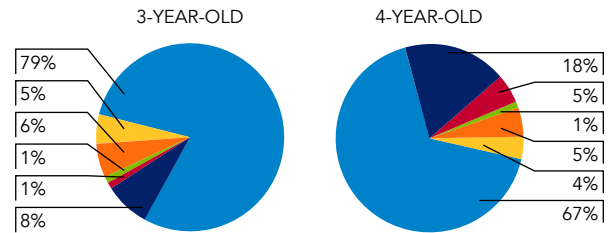


# CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	12,263
School districts that offer state program .....	40% (towns/communities)
Income requirement .....	75% SMI <sup>7</sup>
Minimum hours of operation.....	2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule.....	Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	5,466
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	4,888

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



■ CT SRP    ■ CT CDCC    ■ CT Smart Start  
■ Head Start<sup>†</sup>    ■ Special Ed<sup>††</sup>    ■ Other/None  
<sup>†</sup> Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.  
<sup>††</sup> Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

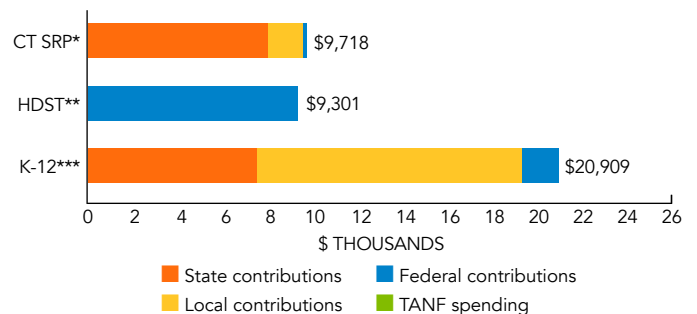
POLICY	CT SCHOOL READINESS REQUIREMENT	CURRENT BENCHMARK	MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?	NEW BENCHMARK	MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally 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	CDA	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>BA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	CDA	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD (public); Based on Head Start or NAEYC (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	9 hours/year (teachers only) <sup>15</sup>	For teachers: At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Referral only; Support services <sup>10</sup>	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 <sup>9</sup>	At least one meal/day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discontinued</b>	—
Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system	Annual structured classroom observations in low performing classrooms only; Improvement plan; Site visits	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<b>5</b>		
				<b>5</b>	

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$97,643,670
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$7,962
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$9,718

\* 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

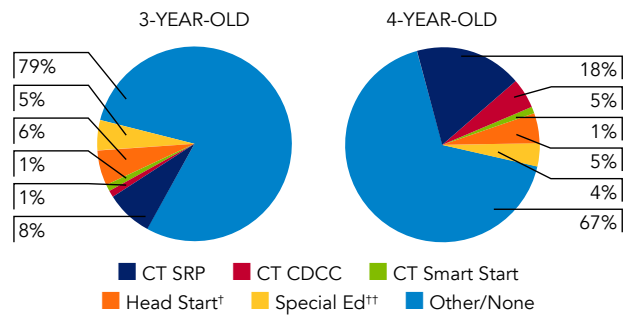


# CONNECTICUT SMART START

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	290
School districts that offer state program .....	8%
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 .....	5,466
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	4,888

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



† 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	CT SMART START REQUIREMENT	CURRENT BENCHMARK	MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?	NEW BENCHMARK	MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned with other state standards, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	New in 2015-2016	—	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>BA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Pre-K or EC	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	PD plans (teachers only) <sup>16</sup>	For teachers: At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	18 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:9 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	None <sup>9</sup>	Vision, hearing, health & at least one support service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	None	At least one meal/day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discontinued</b>	—
Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system	Annual structured classroom observations in low performing classrooms only; Improvement plan	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<b>5</b>		
				<b>5</b>	

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$3,015,911
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$10,400
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$10,400

\* 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

