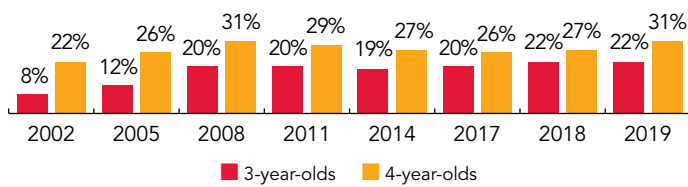
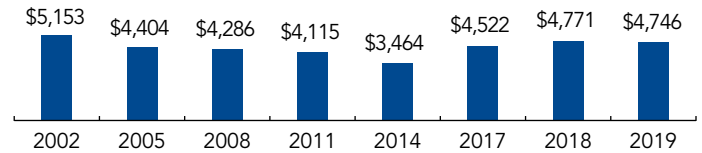


# Illinois

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2019 DOLLARS)



## OVERVIEW

Illinois preschool enrolled 81,161 children in 2018-2019, an increase of 6,022 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$385,174,818, up \$26,699,373 (7%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$4,746 in 2018-2019, down \$25 from 2017-2018, adjusted for inflation. Illinois met 8 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

## WHAT'S NEW

The Illinois General Assembly appropriated an additional \$50 million dollars to the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECGB) for the 2018-2019 school year, resulting in an enrollment increase of over 6,000 children. In addition, the state is working across multiple agencies to finalize the rules prohibiting suspension and expulsion in state-funded preschool. Also, the Illinois Office of the Governor was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five renewal award in 2019 for \$13,414,500 annually through 2022.

## BACKGROUND

The Illinois Prekindergarten Program for At-Risk Children was founded in 1985. The Illinois Preschool for All initiative began in 2006 with the goal of providing pre-K to all 3- and 4-year-olds by 2012. The program operates now in all counties, however, enrollment priority continues to be for children who are considered at-risk. This is due to budget constraints preventing the ability to serve all children who might wish to attend. The program is funded through the state Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), which also supports the Prevention Initiative for children birth to age three. ECBG funding must be used to serve children age three or younger, in addition to 4-year-olds.

Funding for Preschool for All is awarded on a competitive basis to public schools, private child care, Head Start, faith-based centers, higher education institutions, and regional offices of education. To be eligible, children must have at least two risk factors, such as low income, history of family neglect, violence, or abuse, exposure to drug or alcohol abuse in the family, developmental delays, low parent education, and homelessness or unstable housing. A second level of priority for Preschool for All enrollment includes families with incomes at 400% of FPL, but currently there is no funding available for programs to serve children at this second priority level.

Preschool for All programs are required to provide instruction in children's home language if there are 20 or more English Language Learners (ELLs) with the same home language enrolled in a program. All pre-K teachers are required to meet bilingual education certification requirements. Language of instruction is determined locally if there are fewer than 20 ELLs with the same home language, however English as a Second Language and other home language supports may be provided.

Federal grant funding has supported enhancement in both preschool program implementation and access in Illinois. The Preschool Development Grant, awarded to Illinois in 2014, supported 2,348 new preschool slots and 1,869 enhanced preschool slots during the 2018-2019 school year, using carryover funds. In addition, Race to the Top grants allowed Illinois to implement a Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS) called ExceleRate Illinois, revise and align the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards with Common Core State Standards and the Head Start Framework, and, in the 2017-2018 school year, implement the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) assessment.

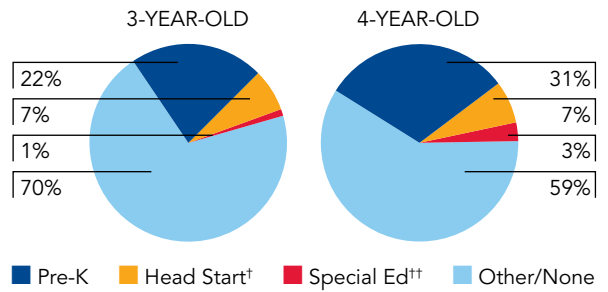
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
20	3	24	31	8

# ILLINOIS PRESCHOOL FOR ALL

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	81,161
School districts that offer state program .....	100% (counties/parishes)
Income requirement .....	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .....	2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	22,626
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	26,175
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	IL 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	<b>BA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, ECE SpEd	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Educator License	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	120 hours/5 years (teachers only); PD plans; Coaching (provided based on monitoring report, not required)	<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)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" 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.



## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$385,174,818
Local match required? .....	No
State Head Start spending .....	\$0
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$4,746
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$5,811

\* 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

