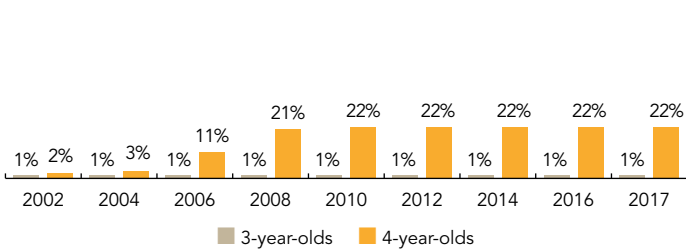
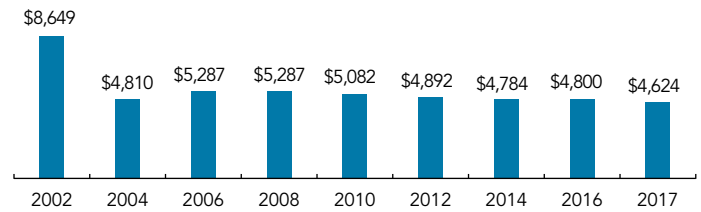


Tennessee

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2017 DOLLARS)



Building upon the 1998 Early Childhood Education Pilot Project, Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) was launched in 2005. Since 2012, almost every district has offered at least one full-day VPK classroom where low-income, homeless, or foster care children receive priority for enrollment. The second tier for priority includes students with an IEP and English Language Learners. VPK enrollment leveled off between 2008 and 2015 but in 2016 enrollment increased by almost 2,000 students where it remained relatively level in 2016-2017 when 18,640 at-risk children were served.

The Tennessee State Department of Education, Division of Early Learning and Literacy has administrative authority over VPK. Only local education agencies are eligible to apply for state-funded VPK grants through a competitive process. Districts may, however, contract with private child care agencies, Head Start agencies, institutions of higher education, public housing authorities, and any three-star QRIS rated program in a community-based or private child-serving agency. Programs contracted to provide VPK services must operate within the jurisdiction of the school district.

Since its inception, VPK has relied on numerous funding sources, including general education revenue and, in the past, lottery revenue and federal TANF funds. State funds for the VPK program have been mostly level since the 2014 school year. Federal Head Start, IDEA, Title I, and other funds are used to provide the required 25% local match. Districts have used the same funding, \$117,490 per classroom, to operate VPK for the past several years. In 2014, Tennessee was awarded a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant for \$17.5 million annually, to expand pre-K enrollment in Nashville and Shelby County. PDG funds supported 1,320 children in new slots in the state and 3,380 in improved slots in VPK classrooms in 2016-2017.

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Peabody Research Institute (PRI) at Vanderbilt University was involved in the fifth year of an ongoing external evaluation on the effectiveness of the VPK program for children who attended VPK in 2009-2010. The study reported statistically significant cognitive and social-emotional gains for VPK participants during the pre-K year and a significant reduction in kindergarten retention for participants. However, the gains appeared to gradually dissipate and turned significantly negative in some subtests (favoring the control group) by third grade. PRI reports the quality of pre-K programs across the state is inconsistent, and in some cases below expectations, based on ECERS classroom observations. ECERS data collected by PRI on a statewide sample shows the average ECERS score is about 4 with the Activities subscale at 3 (on a 7-point scale). Only a very small fraction of classrooms scored 5 or higher overall (the threshold for a rating of "good"). PRI has received additional funding to continue to follow a portion of the children through their 7th grade year 2018-2019). The cohort of children in the PRI study attended VPK in 2009-2010 and the state has made changes in the VPK program that are not reflected in this study.

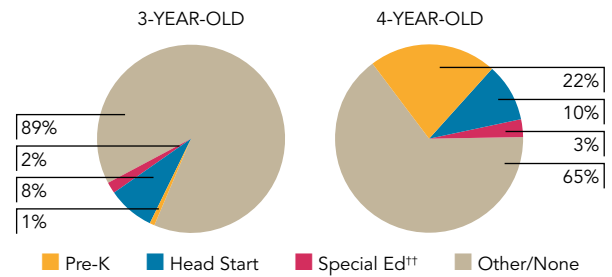
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	CURRENT STANDARDS	NEW STANDARDS
27	25	23	25	9	5

TENNESSEE VOLUNTARY PRE-K

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	18,640
School districts that offer state program	96%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation.....	5.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule.....	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	6,931
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	15,126
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	TN PRE-K 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	New in 2015-2016	—	Approval process & supports	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	18 hours/year (teachers); 12 hours/year (assistants); Coaching (PDG teachers)	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 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more; Support services	Vision, hearing, health & at least one support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Breakfast, lunch	At least one meal/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discontinued	—
Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations (new classrooms & every 5 years); Data used for program improvement	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
			9		
				5	

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$86,200,000
Local match required?	Yes
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,624
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$6,019

* 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

