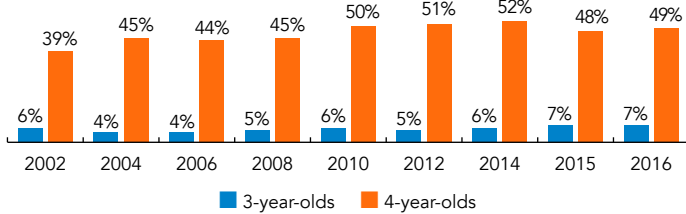
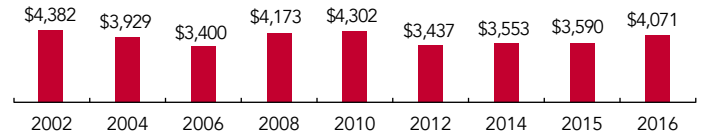


Texas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2016 DOLLARS)



In 1985, Texas began funding half-day prekindergarten for eligible 4-year-olds through the Texas Public School Prekindergarten program. Currently, districts that have 15 or more eligible 4-year-olds are required to offer prekindergarten. Districts that have 15 or more eligible 3-year-olds can also offer prekindergarten, but are not required to do so. The free public prekindergarten program is available in approximately 87% of school districts statewide.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Office of Early Childhood Education oversees the free public prekindergarten program in school districts and open enrollment charter schools. Funding for half-day pre-K programs is based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and is provided through the Foundation School Program as part of the K-12 funding system. Students are eligible to participate if they meet at least one of the following conditions: qualify for free or reduced-price lunch (185% of FPL), homelessness, foster care, parent on active military duty or who was injured or killed on active duty, and/or unable to speak or comprehend English.

In 2015, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 4 to provide funding for quality improvements in Texas Public School Prekindergarten programs, which included a \$118 million appropriation implemented in the 2016-2017 school year. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools applied for grants to implement a High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program. To be eligible for grant funding, a school district or charter agreed to use a curriculum aligned with the Prekindergarten Guidelines, increase prekindergarten teacher training and/or qualifications, implement student progress monitoring, provide kindergarten readiness results, and develop quality family engagement plans. The agency awarded funding to 573 district and charter schools that serve more than 80% of eligible 4-year-olds in the state.

In the fall of 2015, the Children's Learning Institute at the University of Texas-Health Science Center, in partnership with the Texas Education Agency, developed a comprehensive professional development platform for early childhood educators. The Engage platform provides targeted professional development in topics in early childhood education, as well as the CIRCLE student progress monitoring tool, coaching resources including an assessment of teacher interactions, a classroom observation tool and parent resources. The Engage platform is free to all public school teachers and private provider staff, including Head Start, participating in the Texas Rising Star program through the Texas Workforce Commission.

TEA's Early Childhood Data Systems (ECDS) is a state data reporting platform that is part of the Texas Student Data System (TSDS). Through the ECDS, early childhood data is collected and used to inform school districts, early childhood programs, communities and stakeholders about the effectiveness of prekindergarten programs in preparing children to be successful in kindergarten. Starting in the 2016-17 school year, school districts and charter schools will report demographic information on prekindergarten students enrolled, number of half-day and full-day classes, source of funding, class size/ratio, type of curriculum and the type of progress monitoring tool (if administered). Kindergarten programs will report demographic information, type of assessment and the beginning of year results from the Kindergarten entry assessment. High Quality Prekindergarten grantees are required to administer and report student progress monitoring and kindergarten entry results. The information collected in ECDS is now being reported on the Texas Public Education Information Reports (TPEIR) web page.

ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	CURRENT STANDARDS	NEW STANDARDS
10	14	26	33	4	4

