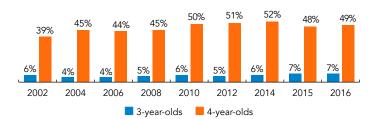
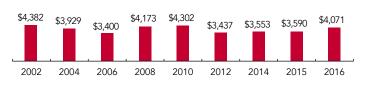


PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED

STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2016 DOLLARS)





n 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		
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	
10	L	

RESOURCE RANKINGS		
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
26	33	

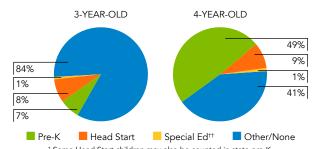
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET		
CURRENT STANDARDS	NEW STANDARDS	
7	£	

TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	220,640
School districts that offer state program	87%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	.3 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 $\!.$	24,003
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, age	es 3 and 464,357
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3	and 40

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	TX PRE-K REQUIREMENT	CURRENT BENCHMARK	MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?	NEW BENCHMARK	MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive	✓	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	✓
Curriculum supports	Approval process	New in 2015-2016	_	Approval process & supports	
Teacher degree	ВА	ВА	7	ВА	/
Teacher specialized training	P-6	Specializing in pre-K	✓	Specializing in pre-K	✓
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent		CDA or equivalent	
Staff professional development	150 hours/5 years (teachers only); coaching (in the grant covering 85% of children)	For teachers: At least 15 hours/year	✓	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	
Maximum class size	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds) ³	20 or lower		20 or lower	
Staff-child ratio	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds) ³	1:10 or better		1:10 or better	
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, immunizations	Vision, hearing, health & at least one support service		Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	~
Meals	Depends on length of program day ⁴	At least one meal/day		Discontinued	_
Monitoring/ Continuous quality improvement system	None	Site visits		Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan	
			4		4

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$898,188,431
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,071
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,127

- 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.

\$4,127 HDST** \$10,696 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 \$THOUSANDS State contributions Local contributions TANF spending