

# NO PROGRAM

Utah currently does not provide a state-funded pre-K program meeting the criteria for this report. However, the state does have several other early childhood initiatives.

In 2014, Utah House Bill 96 was passed, creating the High Quality School Readiness Initiative. The purposes of the Utah School Readiness Initiative are to increase school readiness, improve academic performance, and reduce remediation costs associated with poor academic outcomes. In 2014, Utah approved future investment in some early learning programming through a partnership between businesses and the state. The Utah High-Quality School Readiness Initiative (HB96) was signed by Governor Herbert, allowing the newly created School Readiness Board to enter into results-based financing contracts with private entities to fund proven high-quality early childhood education programs to serve at-risk students. The bill also creates grant funding for existing public and private early education programs to increase quality, and funds independent evaluation. The bill details components of high-quality programs as well as home-based educational technology programs that may enter into a results-based contract with the Board. The initiative began serving children in the 2014-2015 school year.

Utah Senate Bill 101, the High Quality School Readiness Expansion (HQSR-E), was passed in 2016. HQSR-E is intended to expand access to high-quality school readiness programs for eligible students to increase school readiness, improve academic performance, and reduce remediation costs associated with poor academic outcomes. The HQSR-E Grant program provides grant funds to LEAs with existing early education programs deemed high-quality, as determined by the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale ECERS-3, ECERS-R, and some additional rubric criteria. Programs eligible to apply for the program are those that (1) are providing services to economically disadvantaged 4-year-olds, (2) can illustrate how the funds will be used to expand their current program, and (3) are deemed high-quality school readiness programs.

During the 2016-2017 year, the UPSTART program, an online preschool program is reaching just over 10,000 students. Approximately \$8.2 million was allocated to the program, which includes an independent evaluation. These funds include TANF (\$2 million) which can only be used for students who fall below the 200% FPL. The remaining funds (\$6.2 million) may be used for any students, but at least 30% of the students enrolled have to qualify for free/reduced lunch.

For the first time, during the 2016-2017 school year, Utah offered Head Start programs some limited funding to increase the number of high-quality preschool program slots. Three programs applied for and were awarded funding which came from TANF.

In February 2017, the Utah State Board of Education agreed to have the Early Childhood Core Standards revised. The standards were originally written and adopted in 2012. The Early Childhood Core Standards cover multiple domains including: physical well-being and motor development, social-emotional development, approaches toward learning, language development, and cognitive and general knowledge. Revised standards were adopted in 2013 and provide strategies and activities aligned with these domains.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
No Program	

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

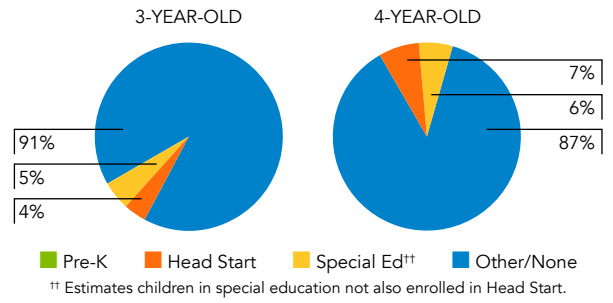
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
CURRENT STANDARDS	NEW STANDARDS
No Program	

**UTAH**

**ACCESS**

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	0
School districts that offer state program.....	NA
Income requirement.....	NA
Minimum hours of operation.....	NA
Operating schedule.....	NA
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	6,125
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	5,257
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

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



**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

# NO PROGRAM

**RESOURCES**

Total state pre-K spending.....	\$0
Local match required?.....	NA
State Head Start spending.....	\$0
State spending per child enrolled.....	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$0

\* 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**

