

NO PROGRAM

Utah currently does not provide a state-funded preschool 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 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. During the 2016-2017 school year, 248 students were served by LEAs.

Utah Senate Bill 101, High-Quality School Readiness Initiative Expansion (HQSR-E), 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 or ECERS-R) and some additional rubric criteria. Programs are eligible to apply for HQSR-E funding if they provide services to economically disadvantaged 4-year-old children, can illustrate how funds will be used to expand their current preschool programs, and are deemed high-quality school readiness programs based on the criteria noted above. During the 2016-2017 school year 3,454 students were served in HQSR-E classrooms. A total of 470 of those seats were created to enroll 4-year-old children from economically disadvantaged families using approximately \$2.5 million in TANF funding. The program is set to expire in June 2019.

Utah's UPSTART Program provides a home-based, technology-delivered kindergarten readiness program to children throughout the state. During the 2017-2018 school year, the UPSTART program is serving children in every Utah school district and reaching more than 14,000 students. State funds allocated to the program total \$7.7 million, and an additional \$2 million in TANF funding was made available through an RFP process. UPSTART prioritizes low-income, ELL, and rural children. The program includes an annual independent evaluation contracted by the Utah State Board of Education.

On February 10, 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. The Early Childhood Writing Committee is currently meeting monthly and actively revising standards. The revised standards are expected to be published and distributed by Fall 2018.

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

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

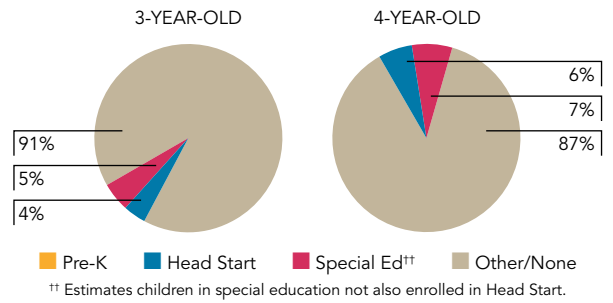
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
CURRENT STANDARDS	NEW STANDARDS
No Program	

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	6,464
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	4,959
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

