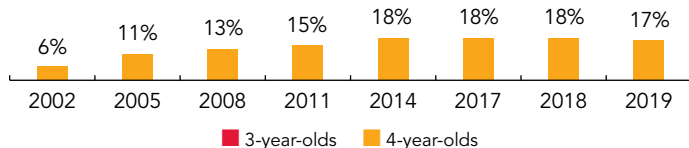
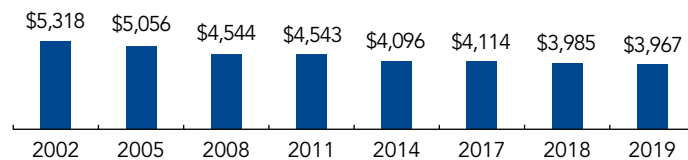


Virginia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2019 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

Virginia preschool enrolled 17,657 children in 2018-2019, a decrease of 302 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$70,049,572, down \$1,519,203 (2%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$3,967 in 2018-2019, down \$18 from 2017-2018, adjusted for inflation. Virginia met 6 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

The Virginia Department of Education was awarded a renewal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2019 for \$11.1 million annually through 2022 to continue the work that began in 2018. These funds will support Virginia to build local community networks of all publicly-funded birth-five providers across the state. These networks will collaborate to increase access to care for families as well as measure and support quality experiences.

Additionally, in July 2019, the Governor established Executive Directive Four, which directed Virginia to establish a state leadership team to accomplish four goals: 1) conduct a series of listening sessions around the state, 2) develop a proposal to increase access for all at-risk threes and fours, 3) develop a uniform measurement and improvement system for all B-5 programs taking public funds, and 4) propose a plan for consolidation of state oversight of B-5 programs. These recommendations are resulted in proposed legislation and budget proposal for the 2020 legislative session. The proposed legislation will establish a unified public-private early care and education system that is administered by the VDOE and the Board of Education, including the creation of a uniform quality measurement and improvement system. The budget proposal includes over \$94.8 million over the biennium to increase access to quality programs for 3- and 4-year-olds and support early educator wages.

BACKGROUND

The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) began in 1995 to serve at-risk 4-year-olds not enrolled in existing preschool programs. During the 2018-2019 school year, VPI programs operated in 96% of eligible school divisions. Programs are required to operate for a minimum of three hours per day, though 97% of children attend full-day programs throughout the school year. VPI is funded by state lottery revenues as well as a required local match. Funding for VPI is available to school divisions where there are at-risk 4-year-olds who are not served by Head Start.

Virginia's federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) program, VPI+, expands services to 4-year-olds in high needs communities. The state served an additional 1,485 students in 2018-2019 through this program. PDG funding was also used to enhance the quality of 2,285 VPI slots during the same year. The General Assembly provided \$6,139,559 to sustain PDG funded slots during the 2019-2020 school year, after the grant ends.

VPI eligibility has always been based on risk factors including, but not limited to: family income at or below 200% FPL, family income at or below 350% FPL for students with special needs or disabilities, homelessness, or parent(s) with limited education. A total of 15% of slots can be filled using locally determined eligibility criteria.

In 2011, VPI was evaluated for both program quality and child outcomes by the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia. VPI programs participate in a state-directed Continuous Improvement and Monitoring Process. This process includes a two-year period involving a self-study, goal setting, and monitoring by the Virginia Department of Education (first year desk review with improvement plan, second year onsite visit with follow-up from year one). VPI programs participate in this process once every four years.

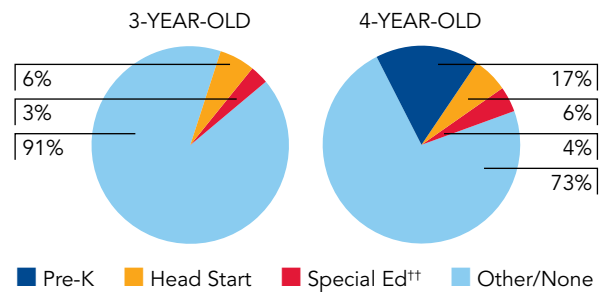
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
31	None Served	31	26	6

VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	17,657
School districts that offer state program	91% (school divisions)
Income requirement	200% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	3 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	10,794
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	11,579
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



** Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	VA PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (public); HSD (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, or CDA	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD (public); None (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	18 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:9 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more; Referrals not required	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$70,049,572
Local match required?	Yes
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,967
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$6,299

* 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

