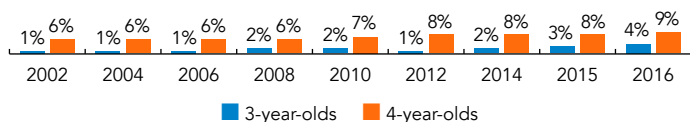
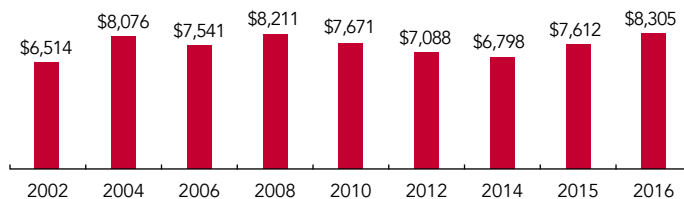


Washington

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2016 DOLLARS)



The Washington State Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), overseen by the Washington Department of Early Learning (DEL), was created in 1985 to prepare 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families for success in school and in life. ECEAP focuses on the well-being of the whole child by providing comprehensive nutrition, health, education and family support services to Washington’s most at-risk young children. Funding for ECEAP is awarded through a competitive process. ECEAP is operated by a variety of agencies including school districts, educational service districts, colleges/universities, nonprofit organizations, and local governments. The program is offered in 36 of the state’s 39 counties. Head Start serves 3- and 4-year-olds in two of the counties not served by ECEAP, and the other county is sparsely populated.

Three- and 4-year-olds from families with incomes at or below 110% of the federal poverty level are eligible to attend ECEAP. Children with IEPs are also eligible to enroll in ECEAP, regardless of income. Up to 10% of enrollment can be children who do not meet the income requirement but experience other risks that could jeopardize learning, development, or school success. Enrollment is prioritized based on a combination of income and other risk factors.

ECEAP is one strategy behind DEL’s goal to ensure that 90% of children in the state are ready for kindergarten by 2020. In 2015-2016, Washington State invested a total of \$97 million in ECEAP, an increase of more than \$20 million from the previous year. State funding comes from both the state general fund and the “opportunity pathways account,” which consists of lottery funds. The increase in state spending on ECEAP corresponded with the creation of an additional 1,600 new slots and an increase in per-child spending. In 2015-2016, DEL hired research staff for the first time and also piloted research-based curricula (Creative Curriculum and HighScope). In 2010, the Legislature passed House Bill 2731 establishing ECEAP as a statutory entitlement for all eligible children by the 2018-2019 school year. This has since been extended to 2020-2021.

The state of Washington has committed to focusing on creating high-quality early learning experiences for young children via ECEAP. As of 2014-2015, all ECEAP sites were required to participate in the state’s QRIS, Early Achievers, and receive a rating of level four or five by March 2016. Structured observations of classroom quality are conducted every three years using the ECERS and CLASS as part of the QRIS. ECEAP teachers assess children’s development three times a year using Teaching Strategies GOLD.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
32	17

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
4	8

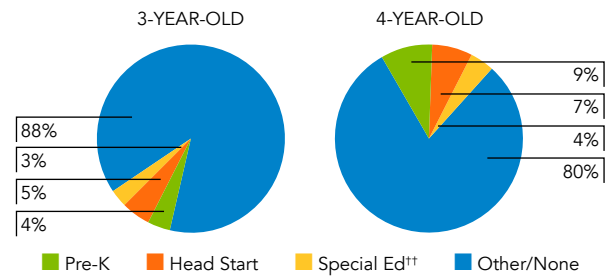
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
CURRENT STANDARDS	NEW STANDARDS
9	7

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECEAP)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment 11,691
 School districts that offer state program 92% (counties/parishes)
 Income requirement 110% FPL
 Minimum hours of operation 2.5 hours/day
 Operating schedule School year (part- & school-day);
 Full calendar year (extended-day)
 Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 8,768
 Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 10,473
 State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 0

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



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	WA PRE-K REQUIREMENT	CURRENT BENCHMARK	MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?	NEW BENCHMARK	MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	New in 2015-2016	—	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	AA	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA, 12 ECE credits, WA State ECE Certificate ¹¹	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year (teachers only); PD plans (some teachers); coaching	For teachers: At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more; Support services	Vision, hearing, health & at least one support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	At least one meal/day ⁷	At least one meal/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discontinued	—
Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations (less than once/year); Improvement plan	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
			9		
				7	

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending \$97,093,974
 Local match required? No
 State Head Start spending \$0
 State spending per child enrolled \$8,305
 All reported spending per child enrolled* \$8,305

* 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

