

THE STATE OF PRESCHOOL 2008

STATE PRESCHOOL YEARBOOK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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ISBN 0-9749910-5-8

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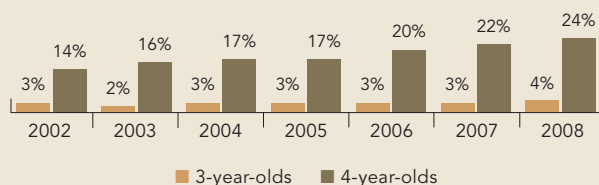
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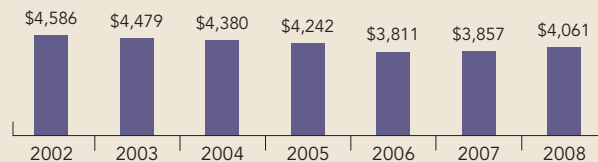
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United States

PERCENT OF NATIONAL POPULATION ENROLLED



AVERAGE STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2008 DOLLARS)



The 2007-2008 year was one of impressive progress for state-funded preschool education. Overall, state programs made major progress in expanding enrollment and continued to raise quality standards. For the second year running per-child funding increased, reversing the prior downward trend in expenditures. However, despite the modest upward trend in spending overall, fewer states were confirmed as providing sufficient funding per child to meet our benchmarks for quality standards. In current economic circumstances, this shortfall is especially worrisome.

In the United States today, more than 80 percent of all 4-year-olds attend some kind of preschool program. About half of those (39 percent of all 4-year-olds) are enrolled in some kind of public program (state pre-K, Head Start or special education), with the other half enrolled in a private program. Most of the 4-year-olds in public programs attend state pre-K, which enrolls almost a quarter of the population at age 4. Unfortunately, these numbers vary tremendously by state. In Oklahoma nearly 90 percent of the 4-year-olds receive a free public education. At the other extreme, as few as 10 percent are enrolled in public programs in some states. Private enrollment does not make up the differences in enrollment between these extremes.

Pre-K enrollment at age 3 is much more limited, primarily because public provision is so much lower. Enrollment in private programs is very similar at ages 3 and 4. Only 14 percent of 3-year-olds attend some type of public program, with barely 4 percent of 3-year-olds attending a state-funded pre-K program. Enrollment also varies dramatically by state, but most states serve less than 1 or 2 percent of their 3-year-olds outside of special education and Head Start.

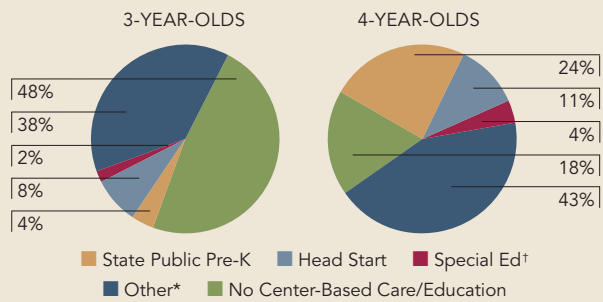
WHAT'S NEW?

- Enrollment increased by more than 108,000 children. More than 1.1 million children attended state-funded preschool education, 973,178 at age 4 alone.
- States' pre-K enrollment of 3- and 4-year-olds approaches 1.4 million in both general and special education.
- Thirty-three of the 38 states with programs increased enrollment.
- When general and special education enrollments are combined, 28 percent of 4-year-olds and 6.3 percent of 3-year-olds are served nationally.
- Twelve states improved on NIEER's Quality Standards Checklist. Only two states fell back.
- State pre-K spending per child rose to \$4,061; spending from all reported sources rose to \$4,609 per child.
- Total state funding for pre-K rose to almost \$4.6 billion. Funding from all reported sources exceeded \$5.2 billion, an increase of nearly \$1 billion (23 percent) over last year.
- In most states the level of funding per child reported from all sources appears to be too low for programs to meet all 10 benchmarks for quality standards.

NATIONAL ACCESS

Total state program enrollment, all ages	1,134,687
States that fund preschool	38 states
Income requirement	31 state programs have an income requirement
Hours of operation	10 full-day, 10 half-day, 30 determined locally
Operating schedule	37 academic year, 13 determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 & 4.....	408,426
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4.....	752,023 ¹
Total federal Head Start and	906,992 ¹
Early Head Start enrollment, ages 0 to 5	
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4.....	18,122 ²

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



† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

*This includes local public education as well as private child care and other center-based programs.

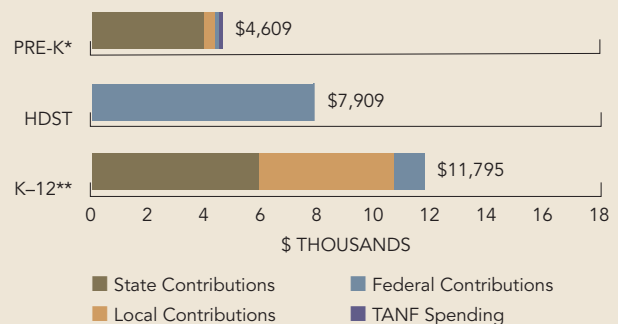
NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST SUMMARY

POLICY	BENCHMARK	OF THE 50 STATE-FUNDED PRE-K INITIATIVES, NUMBER MEETING BENCHMARKS
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	46
Teacher degree	BA	27
Teacher specialized training	Specializing in pre-K	40
Assistant teacher degree.....	CDA or equivalent.....	12
Teacher in-service	At least 15 hours/year	43
Maximum class size	20 or lower.....	44
3-year-olds		
4-year-olds		
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better.....	45
3-year-olds		
4-year-olds		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health; and	36
and support services	at least 1 support service	
Meals.....	At least 1/day	21
Monitoring.....	Site visits	38

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Total state preschool spending	\$4,596,040,309 ³
Local match required?	12 state programs require a local match
State Head Start spending	\$151,679,773
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,061 ³
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,609

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

**K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ The enrollment figure for federal Head Start, ages 3 and 4, is limited to children served in the 50 states and DC, including children served in migrant and American Indian programs. The enrollment figure for total federal Head Start and Early Head Start, ages 0 to 5, includes all children served in any location, including the U.S. territories, and migrant and American Indian programs.

² This figure includes 14,602 children who attended programs that were considered to be state-funded preschool initiatives. These children are also counted in the state-funded preschool enrollment total.

³ This figure includes federal TANF funds directed toward preschool at states' discretion.

TABLE 1: STATE RANKINGS AND QUALITY CHECKLIST SUMS

STATE	Access for 4-Year-Olds Rank	Access for 3-Year-Olds Rank	Resource Rank Based on State Spending	Resource Rank Based on All Reported Spending	Quality Standards Checklist Sum (Maximum of 10)
Alabama	36	None Served	14	21	10
Arizona	34	None Served	35	37	4
Arkansas	14	2	11	6	9
California	26	9	20	26	4
Colorado	23	12	36	29	6
Connecticut	22	11	5	2	6
Delaware	30	None Served	7	12	8
Florida	2	None Served	34	36	4
Georgia	3	None Served	15	22	8
Illinois	11	1	24	28	9
Iowa	20	20	29	18	6.7
Kansas	21	None Served	31	34	7
Kentucky	13	6	23	19	8
Louisiana	12	None Served	9	15	7.9
Maine	18	None Served	38	31	5
Maryland	9	19	19	3	9
Massachusetts	27	5	30	25	5
Michigan	19	None Served	16	23	8
Minnesota	38	21	3	5	9
Missouri	35	18	33	35	7
Nebraska	33	16	32	13	8
Nevada	37	24	27	32	7
New Jersey	15	4	1	1	8.5
New Mexico	25	None Served	28	33	9
New York	8	25	18	24	6
North Carolina	16	None Served	10	11	10
Ohio	29	15	4	9	4.3
Oklahoma	1	None Served	17	8	9
Oregon	31	14	2	4	8
Pennsylvania	28	8	8	14	6.2
South Carolina	10	13	37	38	8
Tennessee	17	22	13	17	9
Texas	5	10	21	27	4
Vermont	4	3	25	30	6.8
Virginia	24	None Served	22	16	7
Washington	32	17	6	10	9
West Virginia	6	7	12	7	7
Wisconsin	7	23	26	20	5.1
Alaska	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
Hawaii	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
Idaho	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
Indiana	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
Mississippi	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
Montana	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
New Hampshire	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
North Dakota	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
Rhode Island	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
South Dakota	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
Utah	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program
Wyoming	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program	No Program

Executive Summary

STATE-FUNDED PRESCHOOL EDUCATION: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The 2007-2008 year was one of impressive progress for state-funded preschool education. Overall, state programs made major progress in expanding enrollment and continued to raise quality standards. For the second year running per-child funding increased, reversing the prior downward trend in expenditures. However, despite the modest upward trend in spending overall, fewer states were confirmed as providing sufficient funding per child to meet our benchmarks for quality standards. In current economic circumstances, this shortfall is especially worrisome. As the dark clouds and storms of a troubled economy worsen, we recall the words of Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*: "Are these the shadows of the things that Will be, or are they shadows of things that May be, only?" We do not yet know, but the decisions of state and federal policymakers over the next several months, and next year, are likely to answer that question and could profoundly affect the future of early education in the United States.

WHAT'S NEW?

- Enrollment increased by more than 108,000 children. More than 1.1 million children attended state-funded preschool education, 973,178 at age 4 alone.
- States' pre-K enrollment of 3- and 4-year-olds approaches 1.4 million in both general and special education.
- Thirty-three of the 38 states with programs increased enrollment.
- When general and special education enrollments are combined, 28 percent of 4-year-olds and 6.3 percent of 3-year-olds are served nationally.
- Twelve states improved on NIEER's Quality Standards Checklist. Only two states fell back.
- State pre-K spending per child rose to \$4,061; spending from all reported sources rose to \$4,609 per child.
- Total state funding for pre-K rose to almost \$4.6 billion. Funding from all reported sources exceeded \$5.2 billion, an increase of nearly \$1 billion (23 percent) over last year.
- In most states the level of funding per child reported from all sources appears to be too low for programs to meet all 10 benchmarks for quality standards.

GROWING DISPARITIES

As some states move forward rapidly, others fall further behind. Oklahoma remains the only state where virtually every child can start school at age 4, but other states are approaching that goal. In at least eight other states, more than half of 4-year-olds attend a public preschool program of some kind. At the other end of the spectrum, 12 states have no regular state preschool education program. In eight states, less than one in five children are enrolled in a public preschool program at age 4 even taking into account preschool special education and Head Start.

Top 10 States Serving 4-Year-Olds			
State	Percent of 4-Year-Olds Served		
	State Pre-K	State Pre-K and Special Education	State Pre-K, Special Education, and Head Start
Oklahoma	71	72	88
Florida	61	65	74
Georgia	53	54	61
Vermont	50	56	65
Texas	45	46	55
West Virginia	43	44	65
Wisconsin	40	42	51
New York	39	44	54
Maryland	37	42	49
South Carolina	35	40	50

No-Program States
Alaska
Hawaii
Idaho
Indiana
Mississippi
Montana
New Hampshire
North Dakota
Rhode Island
South Dakota
Utah
Wyoming

Other important disparities across the states include:

- State pre-K spending ranges from zero in 12 states to more than \$10,000 per child.
- In five states, combined state and local spending exceeds \$8,000 per pupil, while in five others it falls below \$3,000 per pupil.
- Most states meet a majority of the benchmarks for program quality standards, but 5 states meet less than half. These states include three of the four states with the largest populations and numbers of children in pre-K—California, Texas and Florida.
- There are no maximum class sizes or limits on staff-child ratios in Texas, the only state that fails to set either. California and Maine have limits on staff-child ratios but no class size limit. Most other states limit classes to 20 or fewer children with a teacher and an assistant.

GAINS FOR 3-YEAR-OLDS

Enrollment of 3-year-olds continued to rise, though in smaller numbers than at age 4. This year the national, combined general and special education enrollment was comparable to Head Start enrollments at age 3. This is an important development. Nevertheless, enrollment at age 3 remains far below enrollment at age 4, even though the effects of inadequate educational opportunities are clearly evident by age 3 for many children. Only a handful of states make substantial efforts to serve 3-year-olds without disabilities. The leader in serving 3-year-olds in state pre-K is Illinois, which is the only state committed to serving all 3-year-olds, but it is closely followed by Arkansas. Four states, Illinois, Arkansas, Vermont and New Jersey serve at least 20 percent of children at age 3 in general and special education programs.

Top 5 States Serving 3-Year-Olds			
State	Percent of 3-Year-Olds Served		
	State Pre-K	State Pre-K and Special Education	State Pre-K, Special Education, and Head Start
Illinois	20	24	32
Arkansas	18	21	32
Vermont	16	20	29
New Jersey	16	20	24
Massachusetts	10	14	21

QUALITY IMPROVES

The growing enrollment in state pre-K, documented by NIEER, is valuable to children and the nation only if program quality is high enough to produce meaningful gains in learning and development. Thus, it is notable that states have continued their progress toward higher quality standards. In 2007-2008, improvements in program standards enabled 12 states (including three with new programs) to meet more benchmarks on NIEER's Quality Standards Checklist, while only two states moved backwards.



SHADOWS OF THINGS THAT MAY BE

As states consider their fiscal year 2010 budgets, the nation may be experiencing its worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. In the fourth quarter of 2008, the gross domestic product declined by nearly 4 percent, unemployment reached a 15-year high, and state tax revenues fell dramatically. Many states are anticipating their worst budget deficits in a generation. Local government revenues are falling as well. This economic decline will deepen before it improves.

All of this may produce dire consequences for state pre-K programs. In most states, expenditures on pre-K are entirely discretionary and therefore easier to cut than expenditures for some other program. Even states that have not announced cuts to pre-K are considering contingency plans for enrollment cuts, reductions in program standards, and postponing plans for expansion. What eventually happens will depend on the extent to which the federal government provides states with temporary financial assistance, states' commitments to use their own funds, and any new federal funds to maintain and even expand pre-K.

As important as a response to the current economic crisis seems now, the long-term response of the federal government to the educational needs of young children is even more important. High-quality pre-K can help improve the educational success of all children and by doing so, decrease school failure and dropout, and crime and delinquency. In addition, high-quality preschool education has been found to improve economic productivity and health. The bulk of federal early education funding now goes to Head Start and to the Child Care Block Grant, which provides child care subsidies for poor families. As these programs are not designed to serve all young children, a new federal initiative is needed to support early learning and development more broadly.

At the most favorable growth rate that could be expected based on past experience (about 100,000 children per year), it will take another 20 years for the United States to achieve universal access for 4-year-olds. At current growth rates it will take 150 years for the United States to achieve universal access for 3-year-olds. If the nation's political leaders are serious about providing every American 4-year-old with access to a quality preschool education without another generation passing by, it will require a major commitment from the states *and* the federal government. Similarly, no living American is likely to see access guaranteed to all 3-year-olds without increased state and federal commitment.

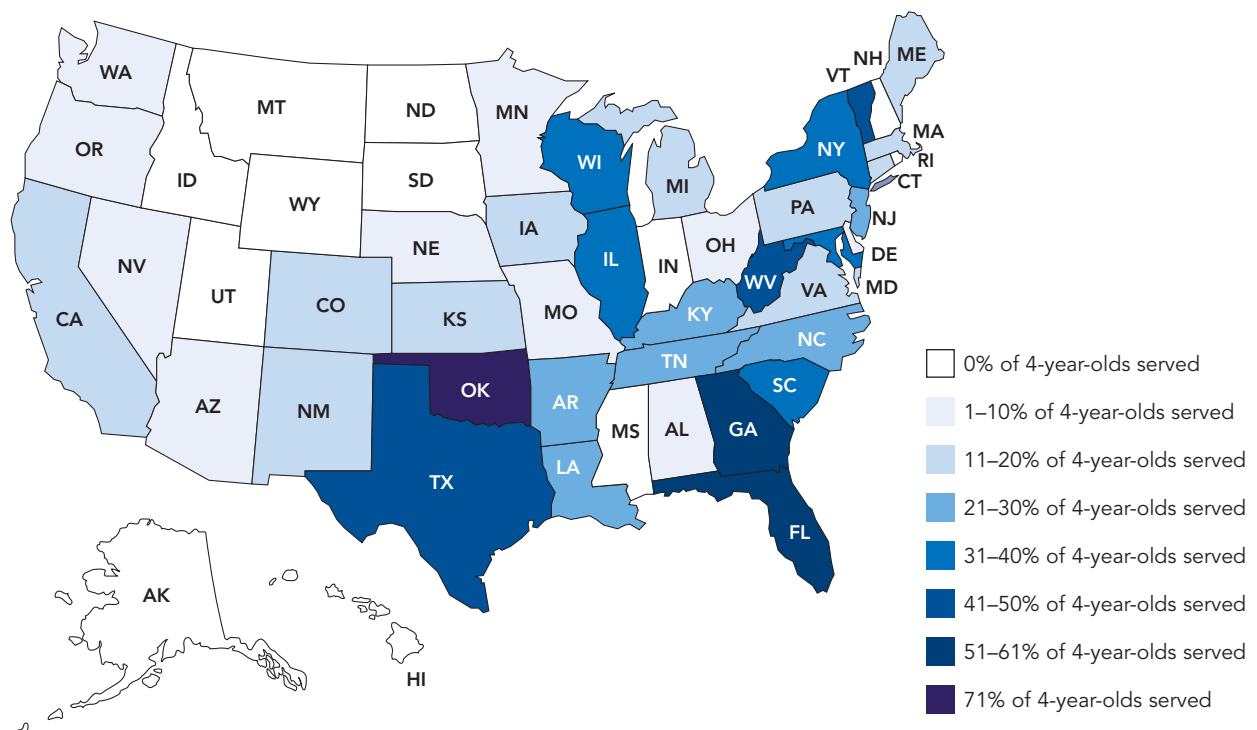
We propose that the federal government commit to doubling the rate of growth in state pre-K while raising quality standards in the states so that by the year 2020 all 4-year-olds in America will have access to a good education. To do this, the federal government should match state spending with up to \$2,500 for every additional child enrolled in state pre-K programs meeting basic quality standards. These should at least include teacher qualifications, class size and ratio, and some system for continuous improvement of teaching and learning. In addition, the federal government should facilitate increased integration of child care, Head Start, and state pre-K. If the federal government adopts such a course, *all* of our children will have a brighter future. If it does not, disparities in early education and school readiness will continue to increase, and another generation will pass without the benefits of quality pre-K for all.

ACCESS: A TALE OF TWO TRENDS

Enrollment in state-funded prekindergarten continued to increase during the 2007-2008 school year, serving 1,134,687 children in 38 states, including 1,122,478 3- and 4-year-olds. Access to state pre-K programs expanded due to the development of new initiatives in three states (Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Ohio) and increased capacity in 30 other states. As a result, enrollment increased by more than 100,000 children compared to the 2006-2007 year. Enrollment in pre-K by state is reported in Tables 2 and 3, and Head Start and special education enrollment are reported in Table 4. For the first time, in this *Yearbook* we calculated an unduplicated percentage of children enrolled in special education, separate from those enrolled in state pre-K and Head Start. Some of the key findings on state pre-K from the 2007-2008 school year include:

- Approximately 24 percent of 4-year-olds and 4 percent of 3-year-olds were served across the country.
- During the 2007-2008 school year, 32 states increased their enrollment of 4-year-olds, compared to 2006-2007 when 30 states increased enrollment. Several states made huge gains in enrollment. Alabama more than doubled its enrollment of 4-year-olds, and with the additions of new programs, Iowa increased enrollment by 348 percent and Ohio by 184 percent.
- Only four states decreased enrollment of 4-year-olds, most by less than 5 percent.
- Overall, enrollment for 4-year-olds increased by 11 percent and enrollment for 3-year-olds increased by 14 percent from the previous year. Since the 2001-2002 school year, enrollment for 4-year-olds has increased by 73 percent while 3-year-old enrollment has increased by 45 percent.
- Oklahoma continues to serve the largest percentage of 4-year-olds at 71 percent, followed by Florida (61 percent) and Georgia (53 percent). These three states with pre-K for all continue to be the only states to serve more than half of their 4-year-olds in state pre-K.
- Although the percent of 3-year-olds in state pre-K continued to climb slowly, approaching 4 percent for the first time during 2007-2008, access to state pre-K for 3-year-olds continues to lag behind. As in the previous year, only five states served more than 10 percent of their 3-year-olds outside of preschool special education. Illinois, Arkansas, Vermont, and New Jersey are the only states to serve more than 15 percent of 3-year-olds in state pre-K programs.

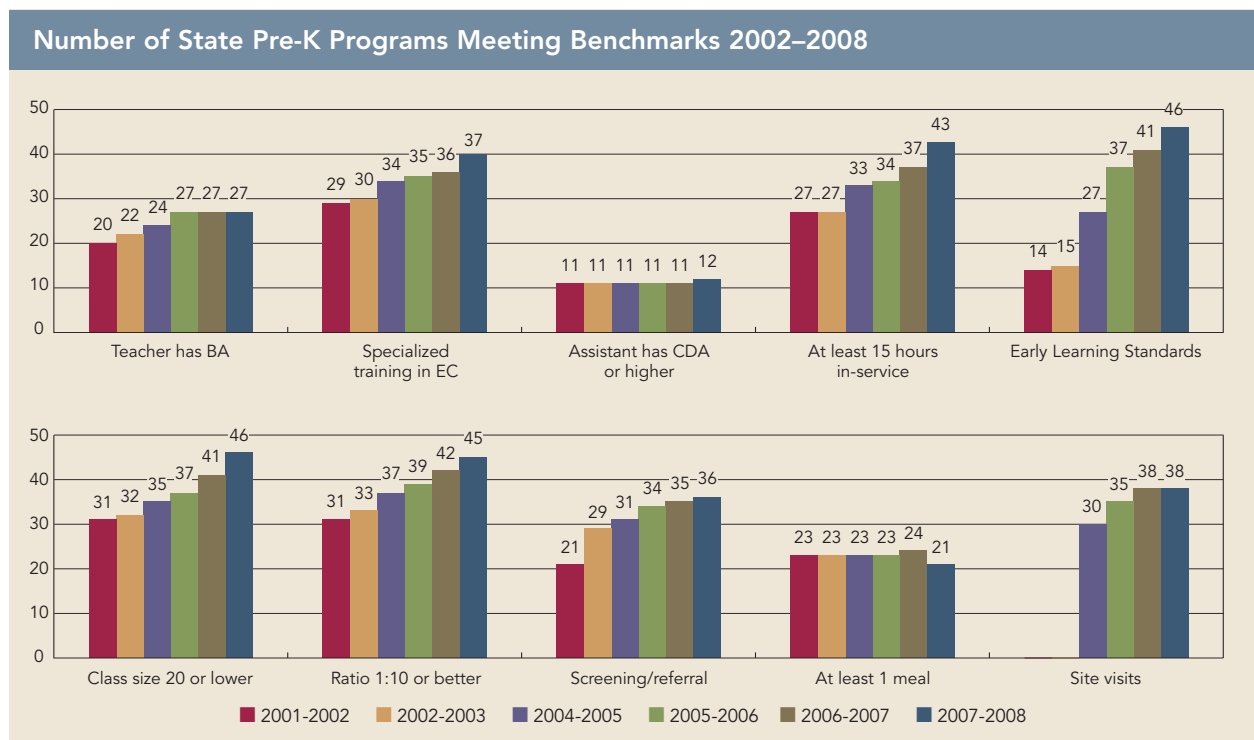
FIGURE 1: PERCENT OF 4-YEAR-OLDS SERVED IN STATE PRE-K



QUALITY STANDARDS: MEETING GREAT EXPECTATIONS

The quality of a preschool program determines how effective it is in helping children learn and develop, with consequences for later success in school and economic benefits to its community. Nevertheless, there are still many preschool education programs across the country that are of poor or mediocre quality. The establishment of specific quality standards in state-level policy helps to ensure that programs can reach higher levels of quality. Each state-funded prekindergarten program has its own quality standards and requirements in place for its classrooms. A research-based checklist of 10 quality benchmarks is used in the *Yearbook* to compare quality standards across the states and their prekindergarten programs.

The tables below show the total number of quality benchmarks met by state pre-K programs from 2001-2002 to 2007-2008. As depicted, state pre-K programs have increased the number of quality benchmarks met over the years. A list of the benchmarks and summary of the supporting research is provided beginning on page 24.



It is important to note that while each benchmark is important in defining quality, they are not all equally important, and not every aspect of quality is encapsulated in these 10 benchmarks. Instead, the benchmarks are preconditions for quality, and attention should be paid to the specific benchmarks met and not just the total number. The quality benchmarks offer evidence of a state’s commitment to provide every child enrolled in a state-funded preschool program with an effective educational experience. Lastly, it is important to acknowledge that the benchmarks focus on policy requirements of the prekindergarten program rather than actual practice. Therefore some classrooms may exceed state-level policy requirements (as they represent minimum standards) or fail to meet state-level policy (if programs do not adhere to requirements).

Overall, states increased the number of benchmarks met, indicating an improvement in program quality standards. For the 38 states with prekindergarten programs, the average number of benchmarks rose to 7.2 out of 10, compared to 6.8 the previous year. Twelve states (including three with new programs) increased the number of benchmarks met, while only two states decreased in the number of benchmarks. Other key findings for the 2007-2008 school year include:

- North Carolina and Alabama remain the only two states to meet all 10 benchmarks. Louisiana NSECD, Maryland Prekindergarten Program, and Minnesota Head Start increased their quality standards and met nine out of 10 benchmarks for the first time. Seven other states continued to fund programs that met nine out of 10 benchmarks—Arkansas, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Washington.
- Kansas greatly improved the quality of its prekindergarten program and now meets four more benchmarks, raising its total met from three to seven. For the 2007-2008 school year, there were only five states that continued to meet fewer than half of the 10 benchmarks.
- Only two benchmarks are met by fewer than half of all programs: just 12 programs require assistant teachers to have at least a CDA credential (or equivalent) and only 21 require at least one meal to be offered to children.
- There are no limits on maximum class sizes or staff-child ratios in Texas, the only state that fails to set either. California and Maine have limits on staff-child ratios but no class size limits. Most other states limit class sizes to 20 or fewer children with a teacher and an assistant.

Despite continued progress, state standards continue to vary a great deal. Children in Georgia or Alabama will have access to a program that meets eight or 10 of the NIEER quality benchmarks, respectively, whereas programs in neighboring Florida are required to meet only four of the benchmarks. For a complete summary of the benchmarks met by each state pre-K initiative during the 2007-2008 school year, see Table 5 on page 18.





RESOURCES: HARD TIMES AHEAD?

During the 2007-2008 school year, states increased spending for prekindergarten, enough to support both increases in enrollment *and* improvements in quality standards. Adequate funding is one key to providing children with a high-quality education. Unfortunately, securing adequate funding for pre-K may become even more challenging in the next few years as the country struggles to cope with a tough economic climate. Some states provide enough funding to provide a high-quality education in their state pre-K programs using only state dollars. Other states rely on a combination of state, local, and federal dollars to adequately fund their state pre-K programs. And still other states do not appear to adequately fund their state pre-K programs based on the figures reported to NIEER. However, since not all states are able to report all of the federal and local dollars that are spent on their programs there is uncertainty in some states about the adequacy of funding levels.

- In 2007-2008, states spent \$4.6 billion on state preschool initiatives, an increase of \$872 million (without adjusting for inflation), or 23.4 percent, from the previous year. State pre-K spending ranged from \$3.25 million in Nevada, a state with about 75,400 3- and 4-year-olds, to more than \$694 million in Texas, which has about 784,000 3- and 4-year-olds.
- Three states, Iowa, Ohio and Pennsylvania, contributed slightly more than \$200 million to new state pre-K initiatives during the 2007-2008 school year.
- Average state spending per child enrolled increased for the second consecutive year and reached \$4,061. This is an increase of \$419 per child without adjusting for inflation (an increase of \$204 when adjusted for inflation).
- States varied greatly in their per-child spending. New Jersey was the top ranked state, spending \$10,989 per child. Three states, New Jersey, Oregon and Minnesota, spent more than twice the national average. Two states, Maine and South Carolina, spent less than \$2,000 per child. Twelve states continued to spend nothing on state pre-K, and on average, states still spent much less per child on a year of pre-K education than on a year of K–12 education.
- All reported spending for state pre-K programs exceeded \$5.2 billion dollars, an increase of \$989 million (without adjusting for inflation), or 23.4 percent, from the previous year. The majority of this increase is accounted for by the increase in state spending.
- The national average of per-child spending was \$4,609 when combining state, local, and locally allocated federal funds, despite incomplete data. This is an increase of \$475 per child without adjusting for inflation (and an increase of \$232 adjusted for inflation). The majority of this increase is accounted for by the increase in state spending. Despite incomplete data for some states, we estimate that at least 17 of 38 states spend enough money to meet all 10 of NIEER's quality benchmarks.

- More than 60 percent of 3- and 4-year-olds in state pre-K were served in six states—Texas, Florida, New York, California, Illinois, and Georgia—none of which reported enough per-child funding from all sources to adequately fund a high-quality preschool program.

Inflation-adjusted spending per child enrolled increased for the second time in *Yearbook* history and for the second year in a row. However, increases over the past two years do not entirely offset previous declines, and inflation-adjusted per-child state spending is still down more than \$500 from 2001-2002. Spending per child enrolled increased in more than half of the states offering state pre-K programs compared to the previous year. Since 2001-2002, while only five states have decreased nominal per-child spending, a total of 22 states have failed to keep up with inflation. Table 6 on page 19 provides more detailed information on spending.

For the second year, the *Yearbook* includes two resource rankings for state preschool programs. States are ranked based on (1) the amount of funds states spent for each child enrolled and (2) all reported funds spent for each child enrolled. This second resource ranking was added because some states rely on local dollars and locally allocated federal dollars, in addition to state dollars, to completely fund their state pre-K initiatives. Not all states are able to fully report on the non-state resources used to fund their state pre-K initiatives, and therefore this second ranking may underestimate spending for some states. There are a few states with large differences in their positions on the two resource rankings, including Nebraska, Iowa and Maryland, where local and federal dollars make up a large percentage of total reported spending on pre-K in the state. As a result, each of these states earns a higher ranking once spending from all reported sources is considered. The national average of per-child spending from all reported sources was \$4,609, though this figure surely underestimates the true national average if all spending could be identified. Tables 6 and 7 (page 20) show the per-child spending in each state, using all known sources.

Also for the second time, the *Yearbook* includes an analysis of which states funded their prekindergarten initiatives sufficiently to be able to meet the NIEER quality benchmarks. This year, fewer than half of states had pre-K programs that could be determined to be sufficiently funded to meet all 10 benchmarks. Of the 17 states that were determined to sufficiently fund their pre-K program, six met seven or fewer of the NIEER benchmarks. These states, we would suggest, could reasonably raise standards without increasing funding per child. Six of the programs that did not sufficiently fund their state pre-K programs (as judged by all reported spending), met eight or more NIEER benchmarks. These include Alabama and North Carolina, the two states that meet all 10 NIEER benchmarks. Both states provided sufficient funding to meet all 10 NIEER benchmarks last year. We are concerned that unless funding per child increases in North Carolina, programs will be forced to undercut quality in some other ways (with unreasonably low teacher pay for their qualifications, for example). Alabama may actually be adequately funded as discussed below. However, Alabama was unable to report its local funding this year and also had the highest increase in percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds served of any state, with the exception of Iowa and Ohio, which both added new programs.

Some of the 21 states that could not be confirmed as adequately funding their state preschool initiatives based on all reported spending were not able to provide complete spending information beyond state spending. These states may actually adequately fund or come close to adequately funding their preschool programs, depending on the extent of the additional local and/or federal sources that could not be identified. Alabama is an example of such a state. For 2007-2008, Alabama was only able to report state spending, although it also requires a local match. Our calculations suggest that a full-day pre-K program in Alabama should cost \$6,971 per child, but the state only spent \$4,415 per child. It is likely that with the addition of Alabama's local match the state is able to adequately fund the program. Florida on the other hand does not appear to sufficiently fund its preschool program, and it is unclear whether the state uses anything but state dollars to fund the program. Florida would need to spend \$4,023 per child to adequately fund its program but currently only spends \$2,500 per child. Most preschool providers in Florida are in the private sector and therefore may find it difficult to come up with additional funding.

TABLE 2: PRE-K ACCESS BY STATE

ACCESS FOR 4-YEAR-OLDS RANK	STATE	PERCENT OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN STATE PREKINDERGARTEN (2007-2008)			NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN STATE PREKINDERGARTEN (2007-2008)		
		4-year-olds	3-year-olds	Total (3s and 4s)	4-year-olds	3-year-olds	Total (3s and 4s)
1	Oklahoma	71.0%	0.0%	35.2%	35,231	0	35,231
2	Florida	61.3%	0.0%	30.4%	134,583	0	134,583
3	Georgia	53.4%	0.0%	26.4%	76,491	0	76,491
4	Vermont	49.6%	16.5%	33.0%	3,327	1,096	4,423
5	Texas	44.9%	4.5%	24.7%	175,468	17,895	193,363
6	West Virginia	42.6%	6.2%	24.4%	9,095	1,331	10,426
7	Wisconsin	40.1%	0.7%	20.4%	28,471	517	28,988
8	New York	38.9%	0.1%	19.4%	91,202	315	91,517
9	Maryland	36.7%	1.2%	18.8%	26,827	892	27,719
10	South Carolina	35.4%	3.7%	19.4%	20,394	2,196	22,590
11	Illinois	31.1%	19.8%	25.4%	54,756	35,355	90,111
12	Louisiana	29.9%	0.0%	14.7%	17,788	0	17,788
13	Kentucky	28.4%	10.1%	19.3%	15,800	5,685	21,485
14	Arkansas	28.1%	17.6%	22.9%	10,880	6,896	17,776
15	New Jersey	25.7%	15.8%	20.7%	29,035	17,969	47,004
16	North Carolina	22.5%	0.0%	11.2%	27,788	0	27,788
17	Tennessee	21.1%	1.0%	11.0%	17,014	791	17,805
18	Maine	18.5%	0.0%	9.3%	2,675	0	2,675
19	Michigan	18.2%	0.0%	9.0%	23,134	0	23,134
20	Iowa	17.4%	1.1%	9.3%	6,787	438	7,225
21	Kansas	16.1%	0.0%	8.1%	6,281	0	6,281
22	Connecticut	16.0%	4.2%	10.1%	6,907	1,792	8,699
23	Colorado	15.6%	4.0%	9.8%	10,752	2,721	13,473
24	Virginia	13.0%	0.0%	6.4%	13,125	0	13,125
25	New Mexico	12.8%	0.0%	6.3%	3,570	0	3,570
26	California	12.4%	5.2%	8.8%	63,758	27,035	90,793
27	Massachusetts	11.4%	10.2%	10.8%	8,666	7,703	16,369
28	Pennsylvania	10.8%	5.5%	8.1%	15,910	8,027	23,937
29	Ohio	9.6%	2.8%	6.2%	14,136	4,141	18,277
30	Delaware	7.3%	0.0%	3.7%	843	0	843
31	Oregon	6.9%	3.6%	5.3%	3,217	1,667	4,884
32	Washington	6.3%	2.0%	4.1%	5,117	1,684	6,801
33	Nebraska	5.7%	2.4%	4.1%	1,468	642	2,110
34	Arizona	5.6%	0.0%	2.8%	5,401	0	5,401
35	Missouri	4.0%	2.0%	3.0%	3,088	1,552	4,640
36	Alabama	3.7%	0.0%	1.9%	2,265	0	2,265
37	Nevada	2.2%	0.5%	1.4%	829	193	1,022
38	Minnesota	1.6%	1.1%	1.3%	1,099	767	1,866
No Program	Alaska	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	Hawaii	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	Idaho	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	Indiana	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	Mississippi	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	Montana	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	New Hampshire	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	North Dakota	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	Rhode Island	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	South Dakota	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	Utah	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
No Program	Wyoming	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0
50 States Population		24.0%	3.6%	13.8%	973,178	149,300	1,122,478 ¹

For details about how these figures were calculated, see the Methodology section and Roadmap to the State Profile Pages.

¹ Nationwide, an additional 12,209 children of other ages were enrolled in state prekindergarten, for a total enrollment of 1,134,687.

TABLE 3: CHANGE IN PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT OVER TIME

STATE	ENROLLMENT CHANGES FROM 2001-2002 TO 2007-2008				ENROLLMENT CHANGES FROM 2006-2007 TO 2007-2008			
	Change in 3-year-olds		Change in 4-year-olds		Change in 3-year-olds		Change in 4-year-olds	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alabama	0	NA	1,509	199.6%	0	NA	1,203	113.3%
Alaska	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Arizona	0	NA	1,124	26.3%	0	NA	325	6.4%
Arkansas	5,954	632.1%	8,656	389.2%	2,828	69.5%	2,732	33.5%
California	16,111	147.5%	19,224	43.2%	717	2.7%	7,504	13.3%
Colorado	1,991	272.7%	2,432	29.2%	637	30.6%	968	9.9%
Connecticut*	257	16.7%	2,490	56.4%	-115	-6.0%	282	4.3%
Delaware	0	NA	0	0.0%	0	NA	0	0.0%
Florida	0	NA	134,583	NA	0	NA	10,193	8.2%
Georgia	0	NA	12,878	20.2%	0	NA	2,336	3.2%
Hawaii	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Idaho	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Illinois	21,257	150.8%	15,854	40.8%	2,644	8.1%	7,648	16.2%
Indiana	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Iowa	-73	-14.3%	5,231	336.2%	-80	-15.4%	5,272	348.0%
Kansas	0	NA	4,051	181.7%	0	NA	310	5.2%
Kentucky	813	16.7%	2,983	23.3%	-130	-2.2%	-8	-0.1%
Louisiana	0	NA	10,269	136.6%	0	NA	3,245	22.3%
Maine	0	NA	1,235	85.8%	0	NA	412	18.2%
Maryland	-516	-36.6%	8,453	46.0%	43	5.1%	2,002	8.1%
Massachusetts*	-1,729	-18.3%	-766	-8.1%	550	7.7%	619	7.7%
Michigan	0	NA	-3,343	-12.6%	0	NA	1,333	6.1%
Minnesota	-48	-5.9%	-171	-13.5%	-97	-11.2%	-146	-11.7%
Mississippi	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Missouri	-994	-39.0%	-598	-16.2%	-158	-9.2%	-174	-5.3%
Montana	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Nebraska	518	418.5%	1,112	312.2%	146	29.4%	491	50.3%
Nevada	82	73.9%	508	158.3%	53	37.9%	30	3.8%
New Hampshire	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
New Jersey	5,184	40.5%	5,154	21.6%	710	4.1%	795	2.8%
New Mexico	-470	-100.0%	3,200	864.9%	-242	-100.0%	1,073	43.0%
New York	-5,520	-94.6%	27,703	43.6%	-840	-72.7%	7,697	9.2%
North Carolina	0	NA	26,548	2141.0%	0	NA	9,827	54.7%
North Dakota	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Ohio*	-5,573	-57.4%	251	1.8%	2,271	121.4%	9,157	183.9%
Oklahoma	0	NA	9,352	36.1%	0	NA	856	2.5%
Oregon	558	50.3%	628	24.3%	464	38.6%	982	43.9%
Pennsylvania*	8,027	NA	13,360	523.9%	4,772	146.6%	5,581	54.0%
Rhode Island	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
South Carolina	1,846	527.4%	4,744	30.3%	1,847	529.2%	-973	-4.6%
South Dakota	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Tennessee	-51	-6.1%	15,256	867.8%	38	5.0%	4,721	38.4%
Texas	-1,846	-9.4%	47,885	37.5%	970	5.7%	5,155	3.0%
Utah	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Vermont*	727	197.0%	2,707	436.6%	68	6.6%	419	14.4%
Virginia	0	NA	7,247	123.3%	0	NA	624	5.0%
Washington	535	46.6%	332	6.9%	521	44.8%	446	9.5%
West Virginia	-437	-24.7%	4,010	78.9%	258	24.0%	-491	-5.1%
Wisconsin*	-171	-24.9%	14,967	110.8%	-33	-6.0%	3,593	14.4%
Wyoming	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
50 states	46,432	45.1%	411,058	73.1%	17,842	13.6%	96,039	10.9%

* At least one program in these states did not break down total enrollment figures into specific numbers of 3- and 4-year-olds served. As a result, the figures in this table are estimates.

TABLE 4: 2007-2008 ENROLLMENT OF 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLDS IN STATE PRE-K, PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION, AND HEAD START

STATE	Pre-K + Pre-K Special Education				Pre-K + Pre-K Special Education + Head Start			
	3-year-olds		4-year-olds		3-year-olds		4-year-olds	
	Number Enrolled	Percent of State Population	Number Enrolled	Percent of State Population	Number Enrolled	Percent of State Population	Number Enrolled	Percent of State Population
Alabama*	607	1.0%	3,489	5.8%	6,716	10.9%	12,781	21.1%
Alaska	286	2.9%	356	3.8%	1,453	14.7%	1,903	20.2%
Arizona	2,690	2.7%	9,050	9.4%	8,341	8.5%	20,518	21.3%
Arkansas	8,071	20.6%	13,248	34.2%	12,642	32.3%	18,515	47.9%
California	37,040	7.1%	78,297	15.2%	71,249	13.7%	135,559	26.3%
Colorado	4,599	6.7%	13,768	20.0%	8,031	11.7%	19,122	27.7%
Connecticut	3,312	7.7%	9,130	21.1%	6,232	14.6%	12,891	29.8%
Delaware	429	3.7%	1,485	12.8%	1,133	9.9%	2,420	20.9%
Florida*	4,985	2.2%	143,214	65.2%	18,101	8.1%	163,568	74.4%
Georgia	1,776	1.2%	77,875	54.3%	14,173	9.7%	87,401	61.0%
Hawaii	506	3.1%	626	4.2%	1,544	9.5%	2,255	15.2%
Idaho	871	3.7%	754	3.3%	1,837	7.8%	3,156	13.7%
Illinois	42,337	23.7%	65,640	37.2%	57,388	32.1%	84,767	48.1%
Indiana	3,723	4.2%	4,906	5.6%	8,288	9.4%	12,212	14.0%
Iowa	1,334	3.4%	8,122	20.8%	3,836	9.9%	11,603	29.7%
Kansas	1,492	3.9%	8,862	22.7%	4,518	11.7%	12,338	31.6%
Kentucky	6,431	11.4%	17,095	30.8%	12,313	22.0%	25,987	46.8%
Louisiana	433	0.7%	20,054	33.7%	11,235	18.3%	29,454	49.5%
Maine*	537	3.7%	3,514	24.5%	2,026	14.1%	5,591	38.6%
Maryland	3,143	4.2%	30,247	41.5%	8,341	11.2%	35,757	49.0%
Massachusetts*	10,820	14.3%	13,335	17.4%	15,835	20.9%	19,667	25.4%
Michigan	3,874	3.0%	27,382	21.4%	16,714	13.0%	47,370	37.2%
Minnesota	3,102	4.4%	4,552	6.6%	6,977	9.9%	10,152	14.7%
Mississippi	223	0.5%	603	1.4%	10,642	24.6%	15,536	36.9%
Missouri	3,625	4.6%	7,393	9.6%	9,989	12.8%	15,775	20.5%
Montana	101	0.9%	229	2.0%	1,699	14.7%	2,549	22.1%
Nebraska	1,674	6.4%	2,706	10.6%	3,439	13.3%	5,267	20.6%
Nevada*	1,270	3.5%	2,748	7.4%	2,386	6.5%	4,400	11.8%
New Hampshire	321	2.1%	810	5.3%	891	5.9%	1,615	10.4%
New Jersey	22,273	19.6%	34,911	30.9%	27,502	24.2%	41,911	37.1%
New Mexico	1,030	3.6%	5,135	18.4%	3,388	12.0%	9,535	34.2%
New York	14,962	6.3%	103,069	43.9%	33,804	14.2%	127,543	54.4%
North Carolina	2,844	2.3%	30,994	25.0%	9,386	7.4%	42,017	33.9%
North Dakota	147	1.9%	191	2.5%	1,293	16.6%	1,915	25.5%
Ohio	7,743	5.2%	20,096	13.6%	22,138	14.9%	38,352	26.0%
Oklahoma	263	0.5%	35,646	71.9%	7,244	14.5%	43,686	88.1%
Oregon	2,905	6.5%	4,694	10.1%	6,908	15.0%	11,081	23.8%
Pennsylvania	13,164	8.9%	22,142	15.1%	25,993	17.6%	40,849	27.8%
Rhode Island	463	3.7%	739	6.1%	1,540	12.2%	2,449	20.2%
South Carolina*	3,388	5.8%	23,072	40.1%	9,215	15.7%	28,925	50.3%
South Dakota	268	2.4%	476	4.5%	1,694	15.1%	2,646	24.9%
Tennessee	2,129	2.6%	18,101	22.4%	8,016	9.8%	27,682	34.3%
Texas	21,148	5.5%	177,470	45.5%	51,293	13.0%	212,943	54.5%
Utah	1,777	3.5%	2,188	4.4%	3,462	6.8%	5,964	12.0%
Vermont	1,360	20.5%	3,736	55.7%	1,929	28.9%	4,372	65.1%
Virginia*	2,801	2.7%	17,891	17.7%	7,986	7.7%	25,027	24.7%
Washington	3,961	4.7%	8,137	10.0%	8,410	10.1%	15,189	18.6%
West Virginia	1,512	7.0%	9,431	44.2%	4,077	19.0%	13,895	65.1%
Wisconsin	2,531	3.5%	29,857	42.1%	9,064	12.7%	36,237	51.1%
Wyoming	500	7.2%	820	11.7%	1,157	16.6%	1,773	25.2%
50 States	256,780	6.3%	1,118,284	27.6%	573,471	14.0%	1,554,116	38.3%

* These states serve special education children in their state pre-K programs but were not able to provide an unduplicated count; the unduplicated percentage served could be less. For details about how these figures were calculated, see the Methodology section and the Roadmap to the State Profile Pages.

TABLE 5: 2007-2008 STATE PRE-K QUALITY STANDARDS

STATE	Comprehensive early learning standards	Teacher has BA	Specialized training in pre-K	Assistant teacher has CDA or equiv.	At least 15 hrs/yr in-service	Class size 20 or lower	Staff-child ratio 1:10 or better	Vision, hearing, health, and one support service	At least one meal	Site visits	Quality Standards Checklist Sum 2007-2008
Alabama	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Arizona	✓					✓	✓			✓	4
Arkansas	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
California			✓		✓		✓			✓	4
Colorado	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	6
Connecticut	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	6
Delaware	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Florida	✓					✓	✓			✓	4
Georgia	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Illinois	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	9
Iowa (Shared Visions)	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		6
Iowa (SVPP)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			7
Kansas	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			7
Kentucky	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		8
Louisiana (8g)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	7
Louisiana (LA4)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Louisiana (NSECD)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Maine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						5
Maryland	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Massachusetts	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓			5
Michigan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			8
Minnesota	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Missouri	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	7
Nebraska	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	8
Nevada	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	7
New Jersey (Abbott)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
New Jersey (ECPA)	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	6
New Jersey (ELLI)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	8
New Mexico	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	9
New York			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	6
North Carolina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Ohio (ECE)			✓					✓		✓	3
Ohio (ELI)			✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	5
Oklahoma	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Oregon	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Pennsylvania (EABG)	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓	5
Pennsylvania (HSSAP)	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Pennsylvania (K4)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				5
Pennsylvania (Pre-K Counts)	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	6
South Carolina (4K)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	8
South Carolina (CDEPP)	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Tennessee	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Texas	✓	✓	✓		✓						4
Vermont (Act 62)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			7
Vermont (EEI)	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			6
Virginia	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Washington	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
West Virginia	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	7
Wisconsin (4K)	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	5
Wisconsin (HdSt)	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		7
Totals	46	27	40	12	43	44	45	36	21	38	

Note: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming are not included in this table because they do not fund state prekindergarten initiatives.

Check marks in green show new policy changes effective with the 2007-2008 school year. For more details about quality standards and benchmarks, see Roadmap to the State Profile Pages.

TABLE 6: RANKINGS OF PRE-K RESOURCES PER CHILD ENROLLED BY STATE

STATE	Resource rank based on state spending	State \$ per child enrolled in pre-K	Change in state per child spending from 2006-2007 to 2007-2008 Adjusted dollars	Total state preschool spending in 2007-2008	Resource rank based on all reported spending	All reported \$ per child enrolled in pre-K
New Jersey	1	\$10,989	-\$124	\$516,541,421	1	\$10,989
Oregon	2	\$8,337	\$20	\$42,500,000	4	\$8,337
Minnesota	3	\$8,310	\$631	\$19,520,751	5	\$8,310
Ohio	4	\$7,260	\$4,597	\$139,509,323	9	\$7,260
Connecticut	5	\$7,181	-\$981	\$62,465,669	2	\$9,393
Washington	6	\$7,046	\$681	\$47,919,000	10	\$7,046
Delaware	7	\$6,795	-\$348	\$5,727,800	12	\$6,795
Pennsylvania*	8	\$6,252	\$408	\$130,548,078	14	\$6,252
Louisiana	9	\$5,885	\$444	\$104,674,104	15	\$5,997
North Carolina	10	\$5,061	\$71	\$140,635,709	11	\$6,954
Arkansas	11	\$4,923	\$352	\$92,895,744	6	\$7,979
West Virginia	12	\$4,793	\$90	\$59,452,747	7	\$7,778
Tennessee	13	\$4,465	\$52	\$80,000,000	17	\$5,578
Alabama	14	\$4,415	-\$940	\$10,000,000	21	\$4,415
Georgia	15	\$4,249	-\$105	\$325,000,000	22	\$4,249
Michigan	16	\$4,230	-\$183	\$97,850,000	23	\$4,230
Oklahoma	17	\$3,966	\$331	\$139,735,130	8	\$7,484
New York	18	\$3,948	\$290	\$361,293,769	24	\$3,948
Maryland	19	\$3,770	\$680	\$104,509,466	3	\$8,558
California	20	\$3,607	-\$84	\$333,507,727	26	\$3,607
Texas	21	\$3,581	\$577	\$694,211,195	27	\$3,581
Virginia	22	\$3,575	-\$213	\$46,916,828	16	\$5,639
Kentucky	23	\$3,497	-\$183	\$75,127,000	19	\$4,860
Illinois	24	\$3,372	-\$146	\$309,596,682	28	\$3,372
Vermont	25	\$3,290	\$561	\$14,602,206	30	\$3,290
Wisconsin	26	\$3,161	-\$205	\$92,212,500	20	\$4,737
Nevada	27	\$3,130	-\$388	\$3,251,671	32	\$3,130
New Mexico	28	\$3,056	-\$95	\$10,909,000	33	\$3,056
Iowa	29	\$3,039	-\$102	\$22,391,481	18	\$4,932
Massachusetts	30	\$2,853	-\$1,045	\$54,940,492	25	\$3,811
Kansas	31	\$2,843	\$94	\$17,857,511	34	\$2,843
Nebraska	32	\$2,792	\$385	\$6,200,647	13	\$6,748
Missouri	33	\$2,757	\$67	\$12,794,517	35	\$2,757
Florida	34	\$2,500	\$28	\$336,469,116	36	\$2,500
Arizona	35	\$2,316	-\$204	\$12,507,717	37	\$2,316
Colorado	36	\$2,085	-\$83	\$28,433,185	29	\$3,353
South Carolina	37	\$1,719	\$24	\$38,821,515	38	\$2,134
Maine	38	\$1,686	-\$302	\$4,510,608	31	\$3,281
Alaska	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
Hawaii	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
Idaho	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
Indiana	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
Mississippi	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
Montana	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
New Hampshire	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
North Dakota	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
Rhode Island	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
South Dakota	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
Utah	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
Wyoming	No Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Program	\$0
50 States		\$4,061	\$204	\$4,596,040,309		\$4,609

* Calculations of per-child spending in Pennsylvania include the EABG, HSSAP, and Pre-K Counts programs only, because the K4 program did not provide information on spending. For details about how these figures were calculated, see the Methodology section and the Roadmap to the State Profile Pages.

TABLE 7: RANKINGS OF ALL REPORTED RESOURCES PER CHILD ENROLLED

Resource rank based on all reported spending	State	All reported \$ per child enrolled in pre-K	Estimate of per child spending*	Is the reported funding sufficient to meet the NIEER benchmarks?	Additional per child funding needed	Quality benchmark total
1	New Jersey	\$10,989	\$8,988 F	Yes	\$0	8.5
2	Connecticut	\$9,393	\$8,751 F	Yes	\$0	6
3	Maryland	\$8,558	\$4,699 H	Yes	\$0	9
4	Oregon	\$8,337	\$3,971 H	Yes	\$0	8
5	Minnesota	\$8,310	\$4,200 H	Yes	\$0	9
6	Arkansas	\$7,979	\$6,549 F	Yes	\$0	9
7	West Virginia	\$7,778	\$3,679 H	Yes	\$0	7
8	Oklahoma	\$7,484	\$3,654 H	Yes	\$0	9
9	Ohio	\$7,260	\$4,162 H	Yes	\$0	4.3
10	Washington	\$7,046	\$4,513 H	Yes	\$0	9
11	North Carolina	\$6,954	\$7,510 F	No	\$556	10
12	Delaware	\$6,795	\$4,419 H	Yes	\$0	8
13	Nebraska	\$6,748	\$3,675 H	Yes	\$0	8
14	Pennsylvania	\$6,252	\$4,141 H	Yes	\$0	6.2
15	Louisiana	\$5,997	\$6,899 F	No	\$902	7.9
16	Virginia	\$5,639	\$8,613 F	No	\$2,974	7
17	Tennessee	\$5,578	\$7,313 F	No	\$1,735	9
18	Iowa	\$4,932	\$3,639 H	Yes	\$0	6.7
19	Kentucky	\$4,860	\$3,839 H	Yes	\$0	8
20	Wisconsin	\$4,737	\$4,124 H	Yes	\$0	5.1
21	Alabama	\$4,415	\$6,971 F	No	\$2,556	10
22	Georgia	\$4,249	\$7,812 F	No	\$3,563	8
23	Michigan	\$4,230	\$4,243 H	Yes	\$0	8
24	New York	\$3,948	\$4,861 H	No	\$913	6
25	Massachusetts	\$3,811	\$4,729 H	No	\$918	5
26	California	\$3,607	\$4,764 H	No	\$1,157	4
27	Texas	\$3,581	\$4,299 H	No	\$718	4
28	Illinois	\$3,372	\$4,485 H	No	\$1,113	9
29	Colorado	\$3,353	\$4,168 H	No	\$815	6
30	Vermont	\$3,290	\$3,675 H	No	\$385	6.8
31	Maine	\$3,281	\$3,628 H	No	\$347	5
32	Nevada	\$3,130	\$4,323 H	No	\$1,193	7
33	New Mexico	\$3,056	\$3,811 H	No	\$755	9
34	Kansas	\$2,843	\$3,677 H	No	\$834	7
35	Missouri	\$2,757	\$3,931 H	No	\$1,174	7
36	Florida	\$2,500	\$4,023 H	No	\$1,523	4
37	Arizona	\$2,316	\$3,981 H	No	\$1,665	4
38	South Carolina	\$2,134	\$3,917 H	No	\$1,783	8
No Program	Alaska	\$0	\$4,125 H	No	\$4,125	NA
No Program	Hawaii	\$0	\$4,116 H	No	\$4,116	NA
No Program	Idaho	\$0	\$3,499 H	No	\$3,499	NA
No Program	Indiana	\$0	\$3,859 H	No	\$3,859	NA
No Program	Mississippi	\$0	\$3,609 H	No	\$3,609	NA
No Program	Montana	\$0	\$3,215 H	No	\$3,215	NA
No Program	New Hampshire	\$0	\$4,044 H	No	\$4,044	NA
No Program	North Dakota	\$0	\$3,484 H	No	\$3,484	NA
No Program	Rhode Island	\$0	\$4,391 H	No	\$4,391	NA
No Program	South Dakota	\$0	\$3,305 H	No	\$3,305	NA
No Program	Utah	\$0	\$3,981 H	No	\$3,981	NA
No Program	Wyoming	\$0	\$3,518 H	No	\$3,518	NA

* For each state, a full-day (F) or half-day estimate (H) of per-child spending was used, based on the operating schedule of the state pre-K program. For states that operated both full- and half-day programs, a half-day estimate was generally used. State estimates were constructed from a national estimate adjusted for state cost of education differences. The national estimate was obtained from Gault, B., Mitchell, A., & Williams, E. (2008). *Meaningful Investments in Pre-K: Estimating the Per-Child Costs of Quality Programs*. Washington, DC: Institute for Women's Policy Research. The state cost index was obtained from: Taylor, L. & Fowler, W. (2006). *A comparable wage approach to geographic cost adjustment*. Washington DC: IES, US Department of Education.

For details about how these figures were calculated, see the Methodology section and Roadmap to the State Profile Pages.

WHAT QUALIFIES AS A STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM?

NIEER's *Yearbook* focuses on state-funded preschool initiatives meeting these criteria:

- The initiative is funded, controlled, and directed by the state.
- The initiative serves children of preschool age, usually 3 and/or 4. Although initiatives in some states serve broader age ranges, programs that serve only infants and toddlers are excluded.
- Early childhood education is the primary focus of the initiative. This does not exclude programs that offer parent education but does exclude programs that mainly focus on parent education. Programs that focus on parent work status or programs where child eligibility is tied to work status are also excluded.
- The initiative offers a group learning experience to children at least two days per week.
- State-funded preschool education initiatives must be distinct from the state's system for subsidized child care. However, preschool initiatives may be coordinated and integrated with the subsidy system for child care.
- The initiative is not primarily designed to serve children with disabilities, but services may be offered to children with disabilities.
- State supplements to the federal Head Start program are considered to constitute *de facto* state preschool programs if they substantially expand the number of children served and the state assumes some administrative responsibility for the program. State supplements to fund quality improvements, extended days, or other program enhancements or to fund expanded enrollment only minimally are not considered equivalent to a state preschool program.

While ideally this report would identify all preschool education funding streams at the state, local and federal levels, there are a number of limitations on the data that make this extremely difficult to do. For example, preschool is only one of several types of educational programs toward which local districts can target their Title I funds. Many states do not track how Title I funds are used at the local level and the extent to which they are spent on preschool education. Another challenge involves tracking total state spending for child care, using a variety of available sources, such as CCDF dollars, TANF funds, and any state funding above and beyond the required matches for federal funds. Although some of these child care funds may be used for high-quality, educational, center-based programs for 3- and 4-year-olds that closely resemble programs supported by state prekindergarten initiatives, it is nearly impossible to determine what proportion of the funds are spent this way.

AGE GROUPINGS USED IN THIS REPORT

Children considered to be 3 years old during the 2007-2008 school year are those who were eligible to enter kindergarten two years later, during the 2009-2010 school year. Children considered to be 4 years old during the 2007-2008 school year were eligible to enter kindergarten one year later, during the 2008-2009 school year. Children considered to be 5 year olds during the 2007-2008 school year were already eligible for kindergarten at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year.