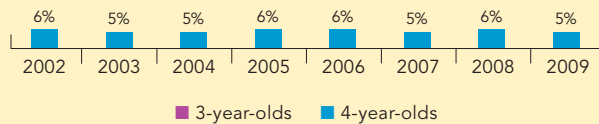
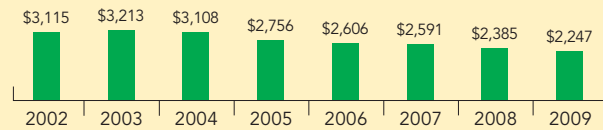


# Arizona

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2009 DOLLARS)



In 1991, Arizona began funding prekindergarten programs, and in 1996 began using the Arizona Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) as a source of funding. In addition to funding prekindergarten, the ECBG provides funding to support supplemental services for full-day kindergarten and first through third grade. ECBG preschool funds are distributed to school districts, which can provide funding for children to attend Head Start, faith-based, or private child care centers if parents choose those settings. Programs receiving ECBG funding, regardless of setting, are required to be accredited. Accreditation must be from organizations approved by the state, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Children must be 4 years old by September 1 to be eligible for participation in an ECBG preschool education program. In addition, children must come from a family with an income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Currently, preschool teachers in ECBG-funded programs are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. Effective July 1, 2012, all preschool teachers will be required to have Arizona Early Childhood Certification or endorsement. This certification requires a bachelor's degree and passing a written assessment of early childhood subject knowledge. The state is working with colleges and universities to offer scholarships and on-site classes to help current teachers meet this upcoming requirement.

In July 2008, a three-year formal evaluation of ECBG programs was completed. The evaluation included a review of financial accounting practices, distribution of grant monies, expenditures, and monitoring of preschool providers.

In an effort to support developmental and health initiatives for young children, Arizona established First Things First (FTF) in 2006 to support programs providing high-quality educational services for children birth through age 5. Specific projects to expand and enhance access to high-quality early childhood services throughout the state include quality improvement incentives, a statewide quality rating system, T.E.A.C.H. scholarships, home visiting, mental and dental health services, and kith and kin training. In 2009, FTF worked with the Arizona Department of Education to allocate \$90 million through state and regional initiatives. These initiatives provide information and education to families and the early childhood education field.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
35	None Served

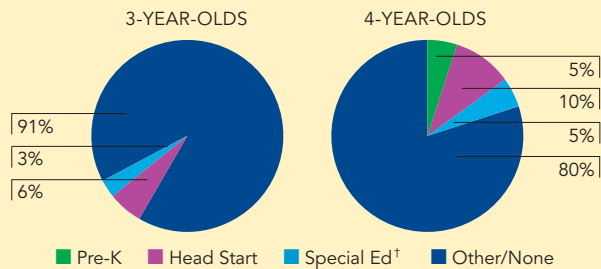
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
35	38

# ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT – PREKINDERGARTEN COMPONENT

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	5,447
School districts that offer state program .....	16%
Income requirement .....	185% FPL
Hours of operation .....	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment .....	8,764
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	16,079
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	0

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



<sup>†</sup> This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	HSD <sup>2</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	None <sup>2</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD <sup>3</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	12 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	20		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	1:10		
Screening/referral .....	Determined locally	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Depend on length of program day <sup>4</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

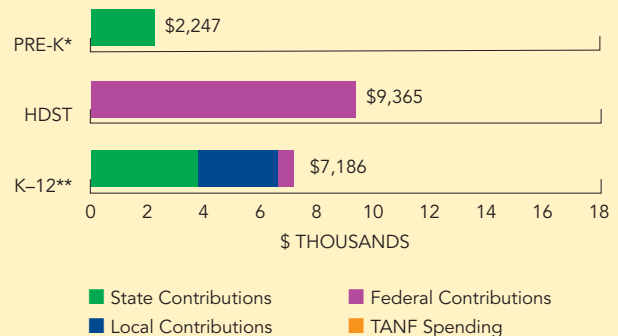
**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

4

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$12,239,918
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$2,247
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$2,247

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 '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Most ECBG programs operate 4 hours per day, 3 to 5 days per week for the academic year. It is recommended that programs operate at least 12 hours per week.

<sup>2</sup> Effective July 1, 2012, all pre-K teachers in settings funded by ECBG must hold an Early Childhood Certification, which requires a bachelor's degree. Since 2005, most programs have hired new staff who have or are eligible for the ECE certification or endorsement. The Arizona Department of Education is working closely with the community colleges and universities to offer scholarships and onsite classes to allow current teachers to work toward a BA in ECE.

<sup>3</sup> Assistant teachers must have at least a high school diploma. The exception is for assistants in Title I schools who must have an AA per NCLB requirements.

<sup>4</sup> The state licensing agency requires licensed programs, including all ECBG pre-K programs, to provide meals depending on the length of time and the time of day a child attends. A child present at or before 8 am must be served breakfast; a child present between 11 am and 1 pm must be served lunch; and a child present at or after 5 pm must be served dinner. Children present between 2 and 4 hours must be served at least one snack; if present between 4 and 8 hours, one meal and at least one snack; and if present for 9 or more hours, at least one meal and two snacks.