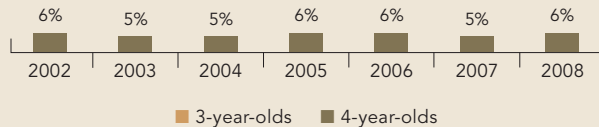
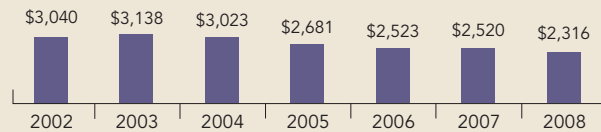


Arizona

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2008 DOLLARS)



Arizona began funding state preschool education programs in 1991. In 1996, the state began using the Arizona Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) to fund prekindergarten. The ECBG additionally funds supplemental services for full-day kindergarten and first through third grades. To be eligible for an ECBG prekindergarten program, children must be 4 years old by September 1 and must be from a family with an income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. ECBG funds for preschool education are distributed to school districts, which can then provide funding to Head Start or private child care providers if parents prefer those settings for their children. Preschool programs receiving ECBG funding are required to be accredited by organizations approved by the state, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

ECBG prekindergarten teachers are currently required to have only a high school diploma or GED. However, effective July 1, 2009, all new pre-K teachers will be required to have an Arizona Early Childhood Certification, which requires a BA degree and passing a written assessment of early childhood subject knowledge. The Arizona Early Childhood Certification became available for the first time in 2005, but was not required.

A formal evaluation was conducted over a three-year time period and completed in July 2008. It included a review of financial accounting practices, distribution of grant monies, expenditures, and the department's monitoring of preschool providers.

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

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

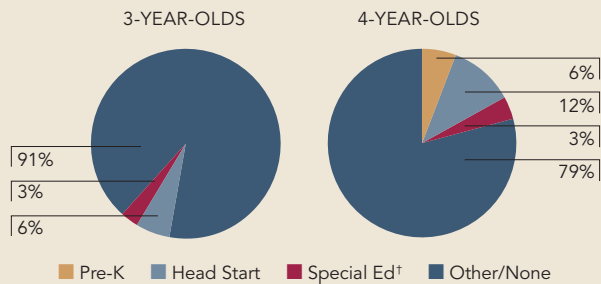
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
35	37

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT – PREKINDERGARTEN COMPONENT

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	5,401
School districts that offer state program	17%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,463
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	17,119
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



[†] This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start but may be enrolled in state-funded pre-K.

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 ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	None ²	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD ³	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 and support services	Determined locally	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁴	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

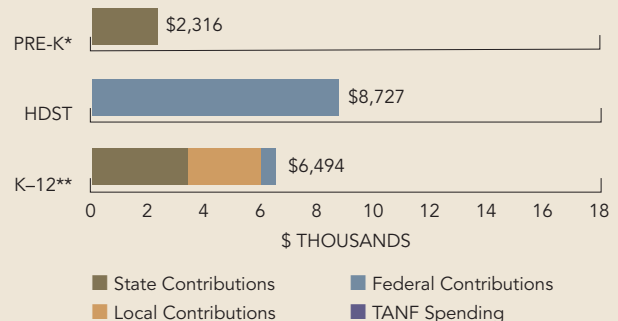
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

4

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$12,507,717
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,316
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,316

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 Most ECBG programs operate 4 hours per day, 3-5 days per week for the academic year. It is recommended that programs operate at least 12 hours per week.

² As of July 1, 2009, 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 EC 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.