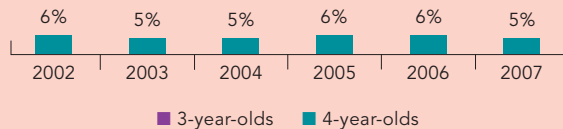
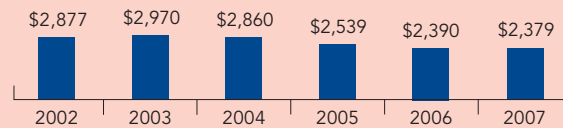


Arizona

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2007 DOLLARS)



Arizona funded state prekindergarten for the first time in 1991. Starting in 1996, the Arizona Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) has been used to fund prekindergarten in Arizona. ECBG is also used to fund supplemental services for full-day kindergarten and first through third grades. School districts receive funding from ECBG and can provide funding to Head Start or private child care providers if parents elect to send their children to preschool in one of those settings. Children must be 4 years old by September 1 to be eligible for an ECBG prekindergarten program. They must also be from a family with an income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Preschool programs that receive ECBG funding must be accredited by organizations approved by the state, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Currently ECBG teachers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. However, all new pre-K teachers will be required to have an Early Childhood Certification by July 1, 2009. Arizona's Early Childhood Certification, which became available in 2005, requires passing a written assessment of early childhood subject knowledge and holding a BA degree.

Increased funding for full-day kindergarten enabled Arizona to serve nearly all of its kindergartners during the 2006-2007 school year. As a result, more classroom space in the public schools was devoted to kindergarten programs and enrollment of preschoolers in public school programs decreased.

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

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
33*	37

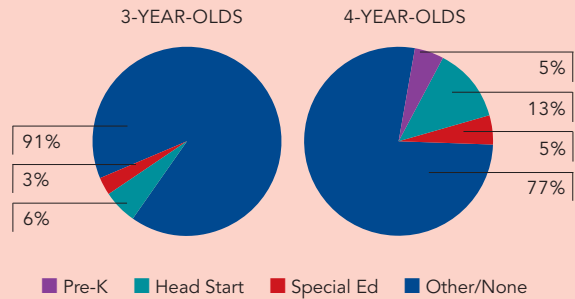
* In previous Yearbooks, only state spending was ranked.

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT - PREKINDERGARTEN COMPONENT

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment.....	5,076
School districts that offer state program	12%
Income requirement.....	185% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,137
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.....	16,850
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



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	1:10		
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 ⁴	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

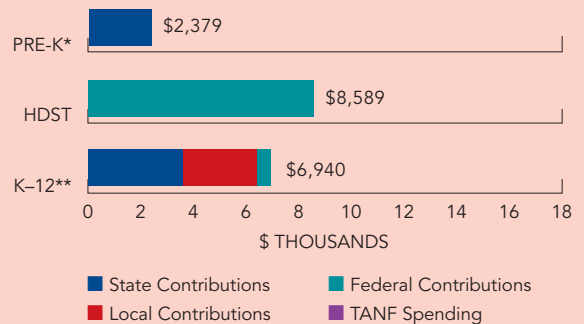
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

4

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending.....	\$12,077,496
Local match required?.....	No
State spending per child enrolled.....	\$2,379
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,379

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 '06-'07 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Programs operate 2.5-4 hours per day, 4 or 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 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.

³ Assistant teachers must have at least a high school diploma. The two exceptions are for assistants in Title I schools who must have an AA per NCLB and assistants in nonpublic schools who can be working toward a GED or high school diploma.

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.