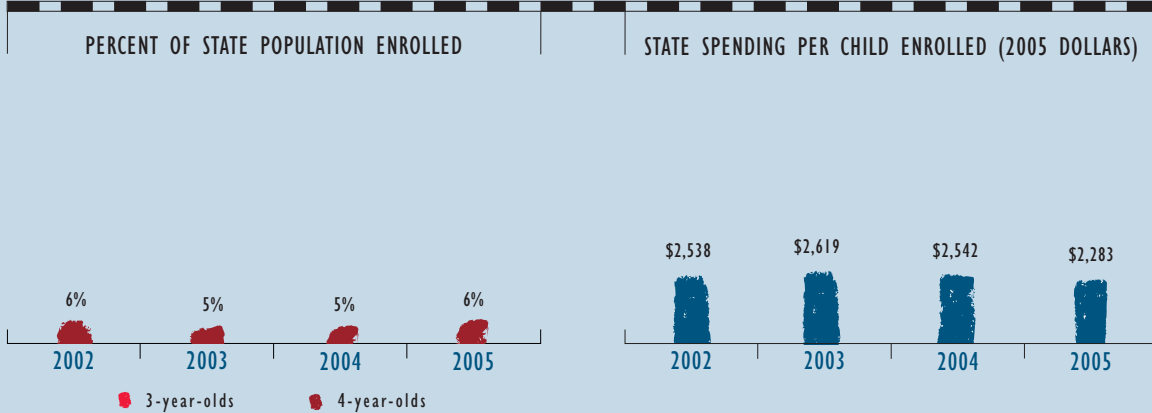


# Arizona



State funding for prekindergarten projects in Arizona dates back to 1991. Beginning in 1996, prekindergarten has been funded through the Arizona Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), which also provides supplements for grades K to 3 as well as funding for full-day kindergarten. Public schools receive funds directly from the state. However, districts must subcontract with private child care or preschool programs, or with Head Start programs, if parents choose to obtain preschool services in one of those settings. All program providers must be accredited by one of six accrediting organizations approved by the state, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children. In order to participate in the ECBG preschool program, children must come from families with incomes at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Although there is no specific age requirement—children are eligible until they enter kindergarten—nearly all participants are 4-year-olds.

Effective with the 2005–2006 school year, Arizona will launch a new Early Childhood Education Certificate. This certificate covers birth through age 8, and will be required for all ECBG teachers by July 2009.

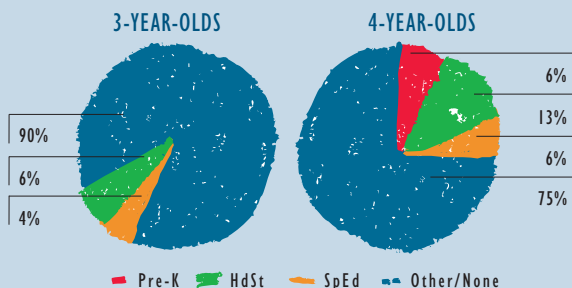
As state funding in Arizona has not kept pace with program costs, programs have responded by using more in-kind contributions and financial support from other LEA grants, and by blending ECBG funding with preschool special education and Title I funds.



## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	5,050
School districts that offer state program	9% (school districts and charter holders)
Income requirement	At or below 185% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Operating schedule	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Special education enrollment	8,040
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	17,231
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



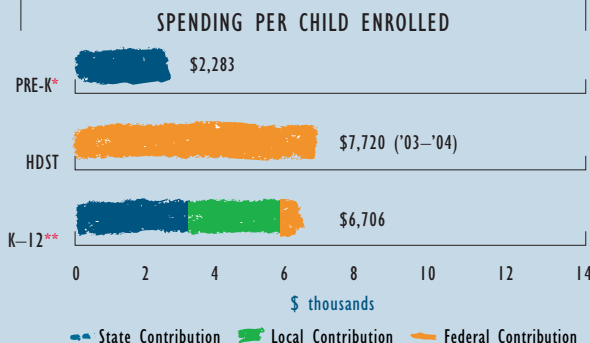
## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive <sup>2</sup>	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	None <sup>3</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	None	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	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	20 <sup>4</sup>		
4-year-olds	20 <sup>4</sup>		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10 <sup>4</sup>		
4-year-olds	1:10 <sup>4</sup>		
Screening/referral and support services	None	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day <sup>5</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$11,530,314
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,283
State spending per 3-year-old	NA <sup>6</sup>
State spending per 4-year-old	\$133 <sup>6</sup>



\* 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 '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- The majority of programs operate 4 hours per day, 5 days per week for the academic year. It is recommended that programs operate at least 12 hours per week.
- The Arizona Early Childhood Education Standards were in effect during the 2004-2005 program year, but were replaced by the Arizona Early Learning Standards in 2005. These new standards are specific to preschool-age children and address all of the NIEGP domains.
- Programs are required to be accredited by one of 6 state-approved accrediting organizations, and a program must adhere to the teacher requirements of the accreditation criteria it is using. Some programs are accredited by organizations that do not set a minimum teacher degree requirement.
- These requirements represent NAEYC standards. Although some of the accrediting organizations approved by the state set less stringent requirements, none of the state's programs are currently accredited by those agencies.
- The state licensing agency requires licensed programs, including all ECBG Pre-K programs, to provide meals depending on the length of time and time of day that a child attends.
- For the purpose of these calculations, all spending was considered to be directed toward 4-year-olds because nearly all enrollees are age 4.