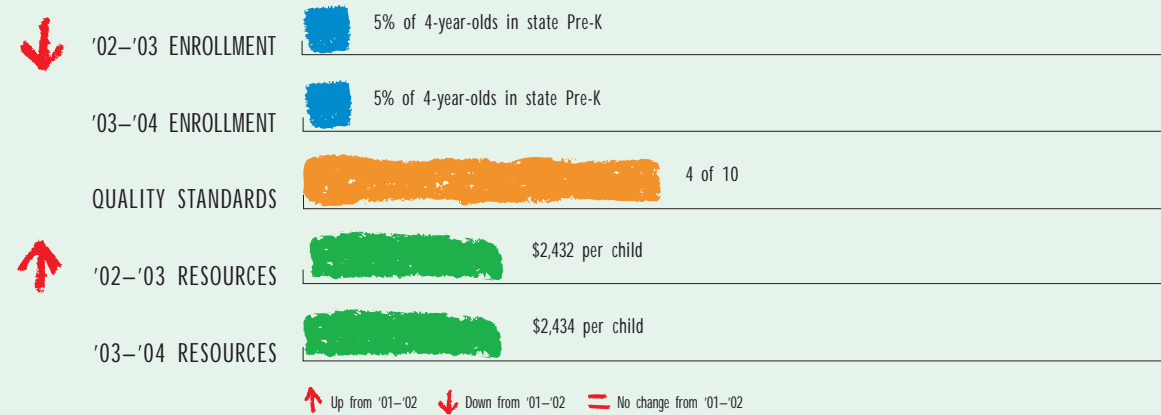


Arizona



Arizona has provided funding for prekindergarten since 1991. Since 1996, prekindergarten funds have been one component of the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), which also finances full-day kindergarten and provides supplements for grades K to 3. Only public schools may receive direct funding from the state, although preschool programs may be operated in Head Start and private child care centers through subcontracts with public schools. Some school districts choose to supplement state funds with local funding sources, including district general funds. All providers must be accredited by a state-approved accrediting organization, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Children are eligible for the ECBG preschool program if they come from low-income backgrounds (with family incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level) and are not yet eligible for kindergarten. Nearly all participants are 4 years old.

Early learning standards have been a recent focus of the program, with the publication of the Arizona Early Childhood Education Standards. These new early learning standards cover six areas: social/emotional, physical, language and literacy, math, science, and arts. While not required, the early learning standards are promoted by the Arizona Department of Education, which collects information about how programs use the standards to implement curriculum and inform instruction.

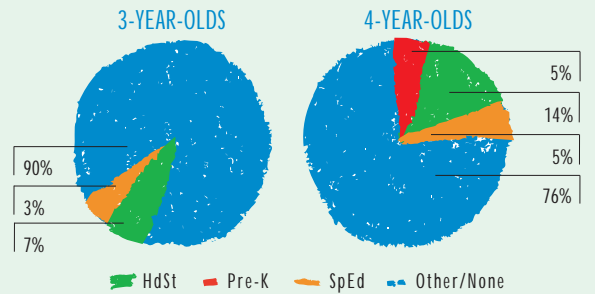
In the 2003–2004 school year, \$10,542,475 in ECBG funding was used to provide prekindergarten services to 4,332 children.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	4,092
School districts that offer state program (school districts and charter schools) ¹	8%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	Determined locally ²
Special education enrollment	6,289
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	16,895
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?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	CDA ³	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Meets CDA requirements ³	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	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 ³		
4-year-olds	20 ³		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10 ³		
4-year-olds	1:10 ³		
Screening/referral requirements	None	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	None	At least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	Varies ⁴	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL:

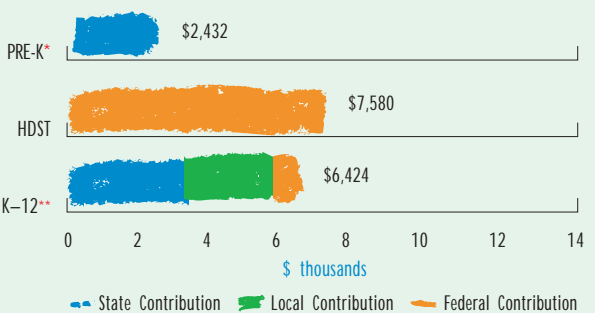
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of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$9,953,752
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,432
State spending per 3-year-old	NA ⁵
State spending per 4-year-old	\$123 ⁵

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 '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ This figure is calculated based on the total number of school districts and charter schools in Arizona. However, only 329 districts and charter schools participate in the Early Childhood Block Grant Program, as most charter schools do not receive ECBG funding. A subset of the schools funded by the ECBG offer the prekindergarten program.
² The vast majority of programs operate 5 days per week for the academic year.
³ This requirement represents NAEYC standards. All programs must be accredited.
⁴ The state licensing agency requires licensed programs, including all ECBG Pre-K programs, to provide breakfast, lunch and snacks depending upon the length of time and the time of day that a child attends a program.
⁵ For the purpose of these calculations, all spending was considered to be directed toward 4-year-olds, because nearly all enrollees are age 4.