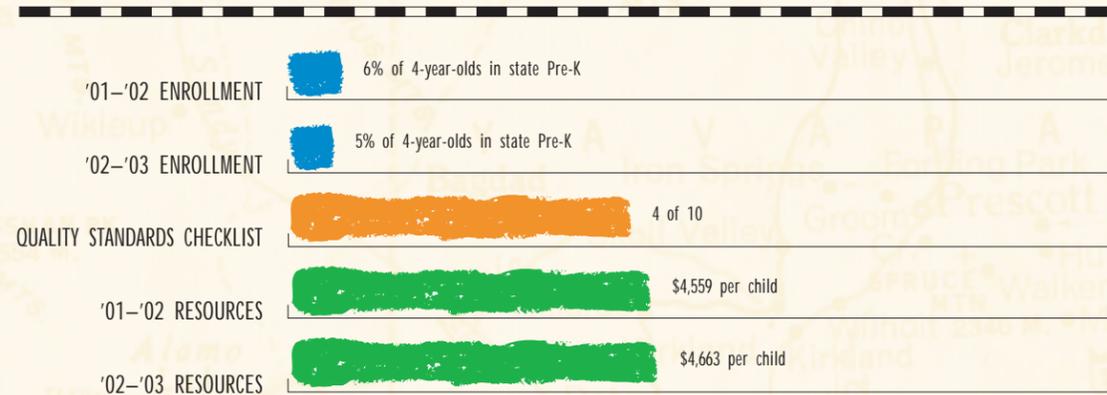


# Arizona



State funding for prekindergarten projects began in 1991; these funds were incorporated into a new Early Childhood Block Grant in 1996. Block grant funding may be used for prekindergarten, full-day kindergarten, or supplements for grades K to 3. Schools, Head Start agencies, and private agencies can receive block grant funding to operate prekindergarten programs provided that they meet the accreditation criteria of the National Association for the Education of Young Children or another state-approved accrediting organization. Children must be eligible for free or reduced-price lunch to participate in the prekindergarten program. Nearly all children in the program are age 4.

The Arizona State School Readiness Board was recently established to develop a coordinated delivery system for early childhood programs in the state, focusing on issues such as increasing quality and availability, decreasing duplication of services, and identifying and measuring indicators of school readiness.

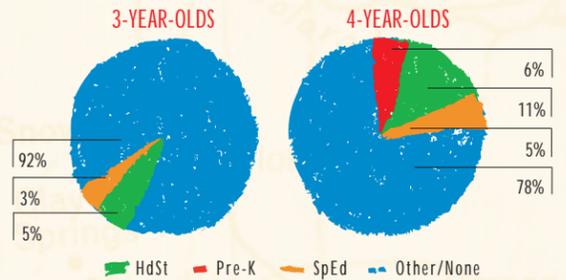
A total of 4,162 children were served in 2002–2003, when the program was funded at \$19,406,775.



## ACCESS

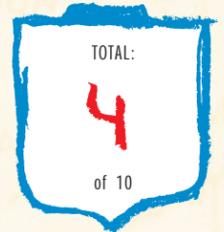
Total state program enrollment	4,277
School districts that offer state program	21% <sup>1</sup>
Income requirement	Free or reduced-price lunch criteria
Hours of operation	Determined locally <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule	Determined locally <sup>3</sup>
Special education enrollment	5,913
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	12,415
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

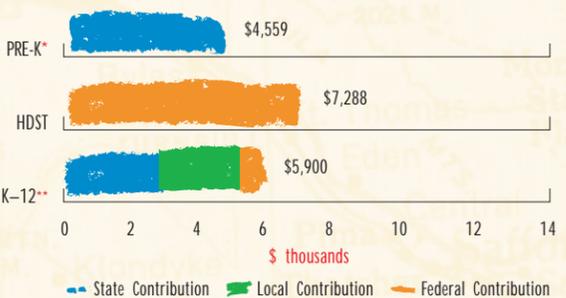
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	CDA <sup>4</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Meets CDA requirements <sup>4</sup>	Specializing in EC	<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 <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 requirements	Determined locally	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	None	At least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$19,498,200
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,559
State spending per 3-year-old	NA <sup>5</sup>
State spending per 4-year-old	\$255 <sup>5</sup>

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 '01-'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- Arizona has 221 districts that offer K-3 programs and would therefore be able to access Pre-K funds.
- Length of day is determined locally, but a vast majority of programs are half-day, 5 days per week.
- Operating schedule is determined locally, but most programs operate during the academic year.
- These figures represent NAEYC requirements. Accredited programs must adhere to the more conservative standard of the national accrediting organization or the Arizona Department of Health child care regulations. In most cases, this means following the standards of the accrediting organization, which is NAEYC for about 90% of providers. Arizona recognizes 5 other accrediting organizations (NECPA, NAC, AMI, ACSI and AMS). All programs receiving state Pre-K funds must be accredited.
- For the purpose of these calculations, all spending was considered to be directed toward 4-year-olds, since nearly all enrollees are age 4.