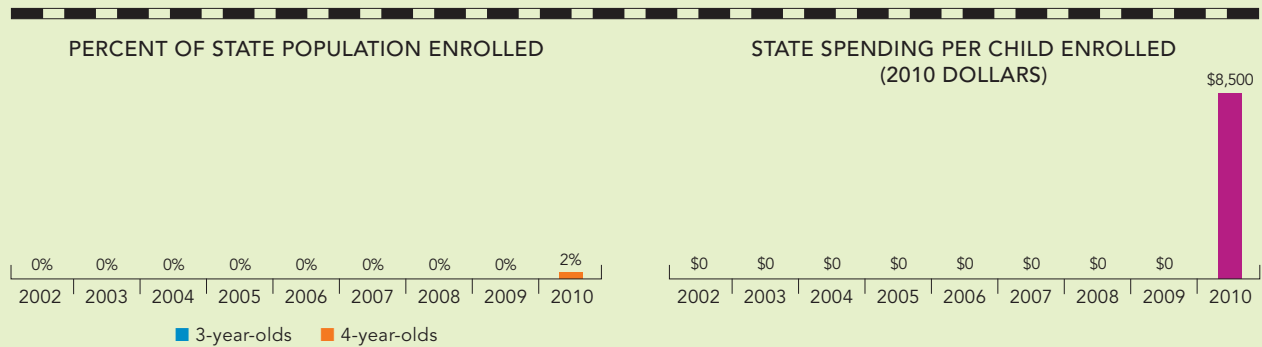


Alaska



Starting in the 2009-2010 school year, the state began a pilot preschool program. The Alaska Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Project (AP3) is a school-year program serving 4-year-old children through competitive grants awarded to six school districts. The grant recipients operate half-day preschool programs and provide outreach to families choosing to provide in-home care for preschoolers. Funding is awarded to public schools and then they can subcontract with Head Start, private child care, family child care, and faith-based settings to provide services. The majority of the programs operate in blended public school and Head Start programs. Eligibility requirements mirror federal Head Start guidelines. Children are eligible from families at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, although programs may take up to 35 percent of children from 100 to 130 percent of the federal poverty level if space is available. AP3 provides for comprehensive services with high-quality standards for teacher education, class sizes, and staff-child ratios. Using data from the 2009-2010 school year, which was the first year of operation, the program will be evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes.

Since the 1980s, Alaska has offered a supplement to any federally recognized Head Start program operating in the state. These funds are intended to improve the program's quality through school readiness activities and professional development as well as to provide access to additional children and families whenever possible. During the 2009-2010 school year, state funding through Alaska's Head Start supplement totaled more than \$7.2 million and served approximately 50 children and families in Early Head Start and Head Start settings.

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

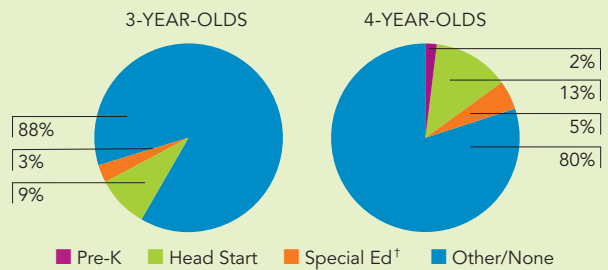
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
3	6

ALASKA PILOT PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	200
School districts that offer state program	11%
Income requirement	100% FPL
Hours of operation	3 to 5 hours/day, 4 or 5 days/week ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	1,097
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	2,205
State-funded Head Start enrollment	53 ²

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



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA ³	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE endorsement ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	6 credit hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" 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	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services ⁵	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Breakfast or lunch and one snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

10

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$1,700,000
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$7,292,600
State spending per child enrolled	\$8,500
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$8,500

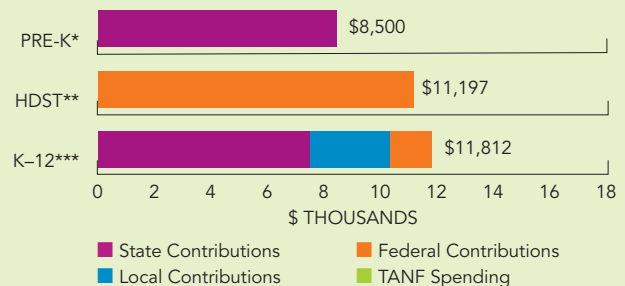
* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '09-'10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ All programs are part day and must operate for at least 3 hours per day, but cannot operate for more than 5 hours per day. Programs operate for 4 or 5 days per week, for a minimum of 14 hours per week, though the actual schedule is determined locally.

² Alaska was not able to break its state-funded Head Start enrollment down by single year of age. As a result, this figure is an estimate based on the percentage of federal Head Start enrollees in Alaska who were 3 or 4 years old.

³ Teachers must be state certified with a BA in ECE or a related field or specialized training in a related field.

⁴ Assistant teachers must have an AA in ECE or a similar related field.

⁵ All programs follow state pre-elementary statutes and regulations. School districts with Head Start programs must follow federal Head Start regulations. Support services include parenting support or training, health services for children, and nutrition information.