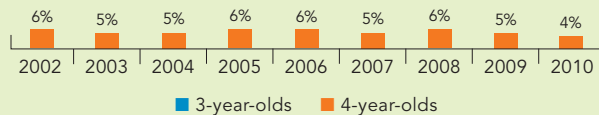
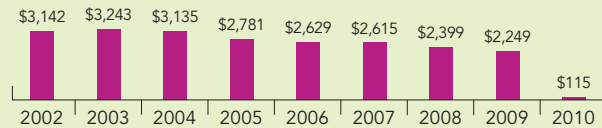


Arizona

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2010 DOLLARS)



Arizona began funding preschool education programs in 1991, and has used the Arizona Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) as a source of funding since 1996. The ECBG also provides funding in support of supplemental services for full-day kindergarten and first through third grade, in addition to funding preschool education. ECBG funds for prekindergarten are distributed to school districts, which can then offer funding to Head Start, faith-based, or private child care centers if parents choose those settings for their children. Regardless of setting, preschool programs receiving ECBG funding are required to be accredited by organizations approved by the state, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In order to be eligible for an ECBG-funded prekindergarten program, children must come from a family with an income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

While teachers in ECBG-funded preschool programs are currently only required to have a high school diploma or GED, all prekindergarten and kindergarten teachers teaching in public schools will be required to have an Arizona Early Childhood Certification or endorsement as of July 1, 2012. The Arizona Early Childhood Certification requires a bachelor's degree and passing a written assessment of early childhood subject knowledge. To help teachers meet this upcoming requirement, Arizona is working with colleges and universities to offer scholarships and on-site classes.

A three-year formal evaluation of ECBG-funded preschool programs was completed in July 2008. This evaluation included a review of financial accounting practices, distribution of grant monies, expenditures, and monitoring of preschool providers.

In fiscal year 2010, the ECBG allocation was frozen due to budget constraints and subsequently repealed. Programs received two quarterly payments rather than the allocated four payments per year, significantly reducing the funding. Arizona's budget for fiscal year 2011 provides no funding for the ECBG program, terminating the program for the 2010-2011 school year.

In 2006, Arizona established First Things First (FTF) in an effort to support developmental and health initiatives for young children. In particular, FTF expands and enhances high-quality services for children from birth through age 5 through quality improvement incentives, a statewide quality rating system, T.E.A.C.H. scholarships, home visiting, mental and dental health services, and kith and kin training. In 2009, FTF worked with the Arizona Department of Education to allocate \$90 million through state and regional initiatives that provided information and education to families and the early childhood education field.

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

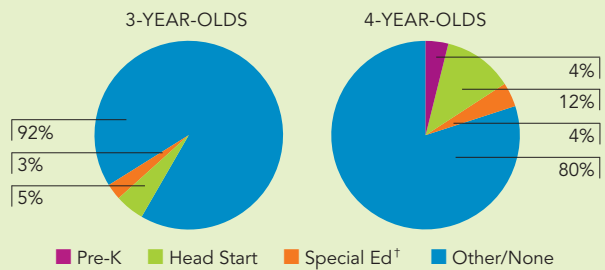
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
40	40

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT – PREKINDERGARTEN COMPONENT

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	4,319
School districts that offer state program	15%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,859
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	17,624
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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	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 type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:15 ⁴		
Screening/referral.....	Health; support services determined locally	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁵	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

3

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$494,687
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$115
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$1,093

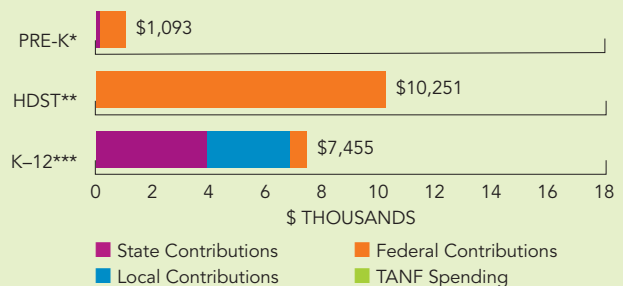
* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** 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 Most ECBG programs operate 4 hours per day, 3 to 5 days per week for the academic year. It is recommended that programs operate at least 12 hours per week.

² Effective July 1, 2012, 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.

³ Assistant teachers who work in Title I schools are required by NCLB to have an AA degree.

⁴ The staff-child ratio is based on state licensing requirements, although the Arizona Department of Education recommends a ratio of 1:10. Based on further clarification, this policy does not meet NIEER's requirement.

⁵ 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. A child present at or before 8 am must be served breakfast; a child present between 11 am and 1 pm must be served lunch; and a child present at or after 5 pm must be served dinner. Children present between 2 and 4 hours must be served at least one snack; if present between 4 and 8 hours, one meal and at least one snack; and if present for 9 or more hours, at least one meal and two snacks.