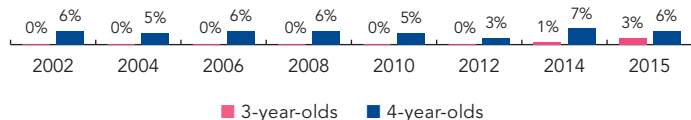
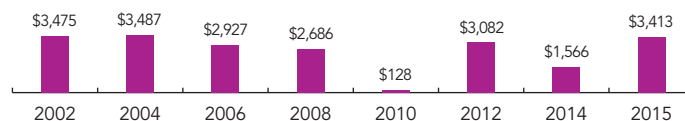


Arizona

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED*
(2015 DOLLARS)



Arizona began funding preschool education programs in 1991. Supplemental services for preschool, first-through-third-grade education, and full-day kindergarten, were supported by The Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) from 1996 to 2010. Children from families with an income less than or at 185% of the federal poverty level were qualified for ECBG-funded programs. With the requirement that some of the funding was passed through to either private child-care centers or to faith-based programs, the ECBG pre-kindergarten funds were distributed to school districts. Preschool programs that received ECBG funding had to be approved by an organization permitted by the state, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). ECBG funds were frozen in fiscal year 2010, due to budget restraints, and then revoked.

The Early Childhood Development and Health Board, known as First Things First (FTF), was established by Arizona voters in 2006. FTF oversees two scholarship programs, which were merged together in the 2012-2013 school year. Initially, QF Scholarships were "Emergency" Scholarships, due to the elimination of funding from the state for subsidy. Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships had specific quality indicators, but were not required to participate in Quality First. Eventually, both the Emergency Scholarships and the Pre-K Scholarships were aligned with Quality First (although not at the same time). Quality First Scholarships are part of the incentive package for programs participating in the QRIS, Quality First. Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship participants were required to participate in Quality First during the school year. As a result, the two scholarship programs merged, and more pre-kindergarten children are being funded in programs that meet the quality tier levels—the current standard is a minimum of a three star quality rating, as assessed by the statewide QRIS, Quality First. In some regions, however, there are not enough programs at the quality levels, so some two-star programs receive QF Scholarships.

The local United Way provides administrative oversight and services related to scholarship reporting, monitoring, and payment through an agreement with FTF. Private child care, public schools, Head Start settings, tribally regulated programs, family child-care homes, and faith-based programs are eligible to participate in the Quality First Scholarships program.

Reimbursement rates were determined by a cost of quality study conducted by First Things First in 2010. Rates are based on the quality level of the program (higher quality receives higher reimbursement) and program type (center-based programs receive higher reimbursement than family child-care homes).

FTF is administered through Regional Partnership Councils, including 18 county-based Councils and 10 tribal Councils that span the entire state. Local Regional Partnership Councils determine the level of funding for Quality First Scholarships based on data and information specific to the region.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
35	20

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
32	38

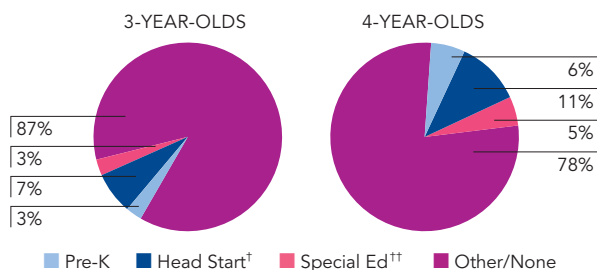
POLICIES TO SUPPORT	
DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS	WORKFORCE
—	✓

QUALITY FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	10,497 ¹
School districts that offer state program	86% (Regional Partnership Councils)
Income requirement	200% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally
Operating schedule	Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	8,885
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	15,857
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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



[†] Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.

^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	☒
Teacher degree	12 credit hours in ECE or CDA ²	BA	☐
Teacher specialized training	12 credit hours in ECE or CDA ²	Specializing in pre-K	☐
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	☐
Teacher in-service	18 clock hours/year	At least 15 hours/year	☒
Maximum class size	20 or lower		☐
3-year-olds	26		
4-year-olds	30		
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better		☐
3-year-olds	1:13		
4-year-olds	1:15		
Screening/referral	Immunizations; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	☐
Meals	Depends on length of program day	At least 1/day	☐
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	☒

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
3

RESOURCES

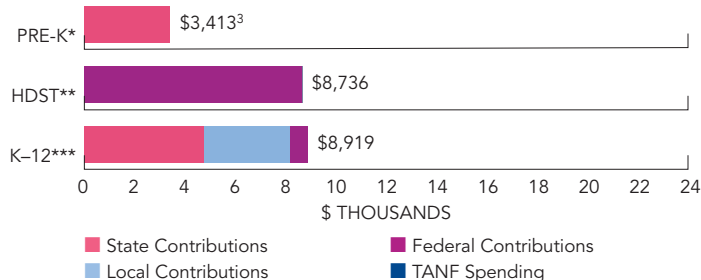
Total state pre-K spending	\$35,829,787 ³
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,413 ³
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,413 ³

* 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 2014-2015 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '14-'15 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ 10,497 includes children ages zero to four years old.

² For Quality First Scholarships, the minimum requirement is that 25% of lead teachers and administrators must have 12 college credit hours in Early Childhood or related fields or a Certificate of Completion in ECE or Child Development, or a CDA.

³ This includes funding for children zero to four years old.