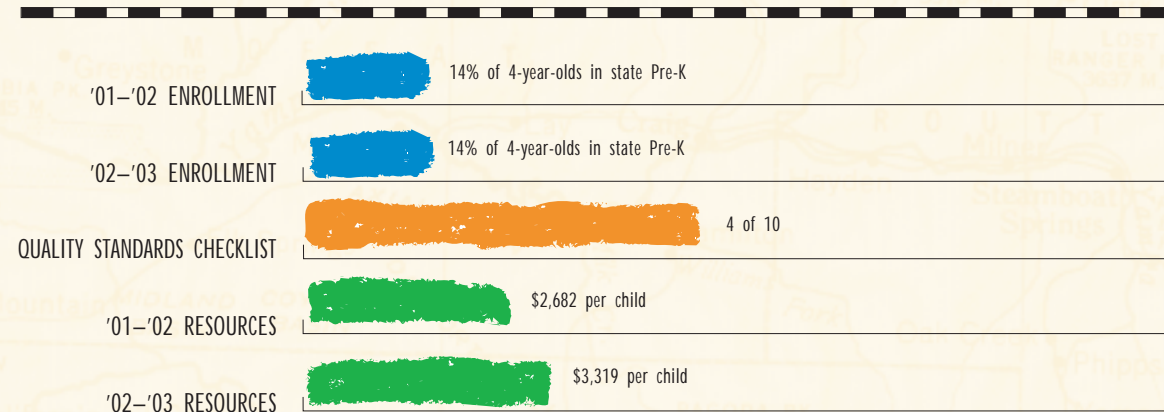


Colorado



The Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) was launched in 1988 as a preventative measure to reduce the dropout rate. While CPP primarily provides a half-day program for at-risk children the year before they enter kindergarten, changes in the law in 1997 allow some funds to be used for extending kindergarten to a full day in selected school districts. In 2001, CPP was expanded to serve 3-year-old children with three or more significant risk factors.

CPP funds can be combined with child care and other funds to provide comprehensive, full-day programs for children ages 3 to 5. Local school districts apply for funding on a competitive basis and may subcontract with Head Start and community-based child care providers. Program standards do not vary based on the location of the program.

In 2002–2003, the Colorado Preschool Program, which served 970 3-year-olds and 8,459 4-year-olds, received \$31,293,860 in state funds. The fiscal year 2004 budget will result in the elimination of 1,500 slots for 3- and 4-year-olds in CPP and 500 slots for children being served in the second half of their kindergarten day.

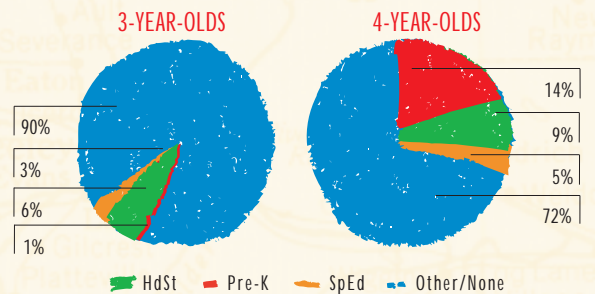
Colorado has recently focused on evaluating long-term effects of CPP attendance on later school performance of children at risk of school failure. Results from third-grade reading assessments of CPP graduates suggest that CPP helps close the achievement gap for those children.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	10,050
School districts that offer state program	81% ¹
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Half-day, less than 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	5,129
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	8,786
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

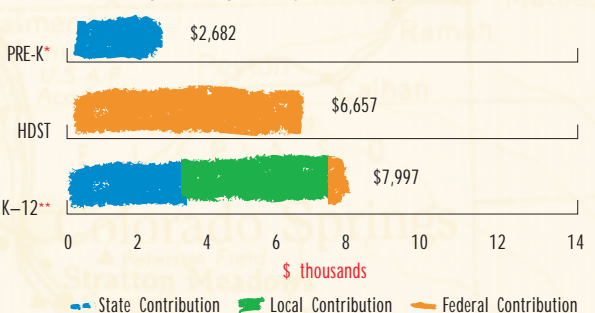
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Not comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	CDA	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Meets CDA requirements	Specializing in EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	10 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	15		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:8		
Screening/referral requirements	Determined locally	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	Family support services ³	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$26,954,332
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,682
State spending per 3-year-old	\$33
State spending per 4-year-old	\$375

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.

¹ Some districts are on a waiting list until expansion funds become available. Priority is based upon need, quality of proposal, level of community collaboration and quality of the evaluation plan.
² Most programs operate 2.5 hours per day, 4 days per week. Some provide 2 full days of service for bussing purposes. Minimum required hours of operation are 10 hours per week, 360 hours per year.
³ Services include: information and referral relating to nutrition, immunization, health care, social services and parent education and support.