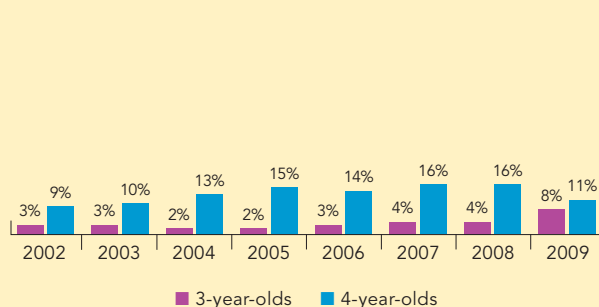
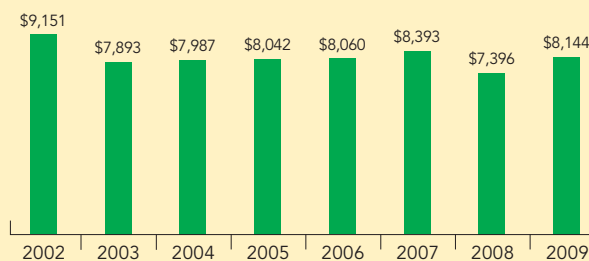


Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2009 DOLLARS)



In 1997, Connecticut created the School Readiness Program with the aim of improving access to early childhood programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. Preschool services are provided in 19 priority districts. In addition, towns identified as one of the 50 lowest wealth ranked towns in the state or towns with a priority school that are not designated as a priority district are eligible for competitive funding. At least 60 percent of children enrolled in the program must have a family income at or below 75 percent of the state median income.

Funds are available to all 19 priority districts, although they are not required to participate. Other eligible towns may apply and are awarded funds through competitive grants. The School Readiness Program can be offered through public schools, Head Start agencies, and private child care and faith-based centers. When a community participates in the program, the chief elected official and the district school superintendent establish a School Readiness Council to provide guidance for the local program.

In order to accommodate working and non-working families, the School Readiness Program provides different slot options. The slot types include full-day, school-day, and part-day and are available 5 days a week. Full-day spaces operate 7 to 10 hours per day for 50 weeks per year. School-day spaces are available 6 hours per day, and part-day spaces operate 2 ½ hours per day, both for 180 days per year.

The state also funds a program through the Department of Social Services (DSS). This program serves approximately 3,700 children up to age 5. Children are eligible to participate in the program for free if their family household income is less than 75 percent of the state median income. However, families are required to go through a redetermination of fee every six months, so families may end up paying a fee or having to drop out within the program year. Due to this determination, the DSS program does not meet the NIEER definition of a state-funded preschool program.

In addition, Connecticut dedicated \$5,245,093 in state funds to supplement federal Head Start during the 2008-2009 program year, creating additional slots, providing additional services, extending the program day and year, and supporting other quality enhancements.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
28	6

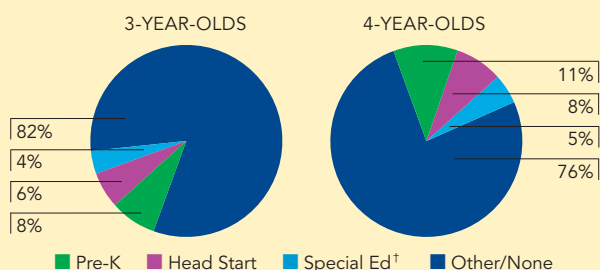
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
3	2

CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	8,865
School districts that offer state program	38% (communities)
Income requirement	60% of children must be at or below 75% SMI
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Determined locally ¹
Special education enrollment	4,866
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	5,754
State-funded Head Start enrollment	411 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	CDA + 12 credits in EC ³	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	Meets CDA requirements	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	6 clock hours ⁴	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health, dental; ⁵ and support services ⁶	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁷	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

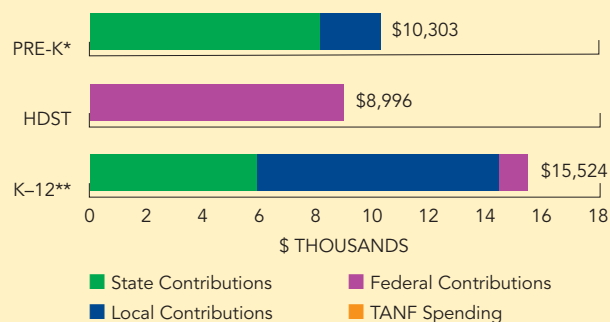
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

6

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$72,194,403
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$5,245,093
State spending per child enrolled	\$8,144
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$10,303

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 '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ There are three types of slots, including full-day (7-10 hours)/full-year (50 weeks/year); school-day (6 hours)/school-year (180 days/year); part-day (2.5 to 4 hours)/school-year (180 to 250 days/year). Extended-day programs provide hours, days, and weeks of a non-School Readiness program to extend the program to meet full-day, full-year requirements. All programs operate 5 days per week. Funding levels vary by the type of slot.

² This figure is an estimate based on the number of children reported as a state match by ACF and the proportion of 3- and 4-year-olds as reported by the PIR.

³ The majority of public schools with School Readiness classrooms have a certified teacher present for at least 2.5 hours per day.

⁴ All school readiness staff must complete two 2-hour annual trainings in early childhood education and one 2-or-more-hours annual training in serving children with disabilities. They must also document training in emerging literacy and in diversity

in the classroom. Most centers are licensed by the Department of Public Health, which requires annual training in medical administration, First Aid, and nutrition.

⁵ All children must have an annual well-child checkup by their health care provider and health forms are required.

⁶ Support services include education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, family literacy, and services for dual language learners.

⁷ Programs are required to serve one snack to children who attend fewer than 5 hours per day and one snack plus one meal to children in class for 5 to 9 hours per day. Children attending more than 8 hours per day must be provided one snack and two meals or two snacks and one meal. Either the program or the parent may provide the food.