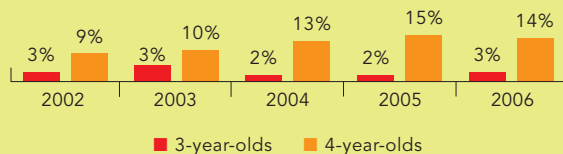
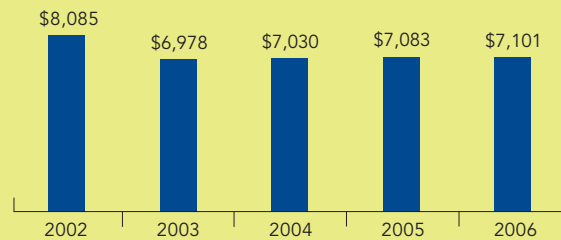


Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2006 DOLLARS)



Connecticut established School Readiness funding in 1997 to increase access to preschool education in priority school districts and districts with severe-need schools. The program serves both 3- and 4-year-old children. The state allocates funds directly to priority districts, and awards competitive grant funding to severe-need schools. In participating communities, the town mayor and school superintendent establish a School Readiness Council to provide direction to the local program. School Readiness service providers include public schools, private child care centers, and Head Start centers. Programs must mainly provide full-day, full-year slots, but they also may provide some slots for families with different schedule needs, such as part-day, part-year; extended day; and school-day, school year. At least 60 percent of enrolled children must have family income at or below 75 percent of the state median income. All families are charged fees on a sliding scale except those receiving TANF or providing foster care to the child.

The state's Policy and Research Council and the governor are currently reviewing a report by the state Early Childhood Cabinet, recommending a birth-to-age-8 approach to early education and supporting access to high-quality programs for all low-income 3- and 4-year-olds. The Cabinet's recommendations will be used to steer the implementation of an early childhood plan for Connecticut.

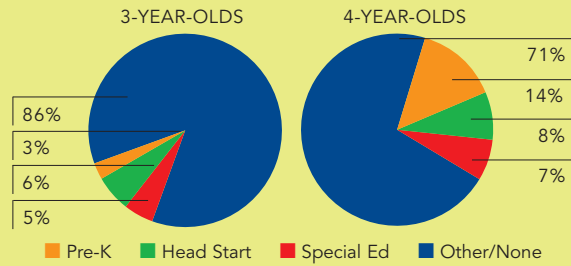
Connecticut also uses state funds to supplement Head Start to support quality enhancements and provide additional part-day, full-day, and extended-day slots.

ACCESS RANKING-4s	ACCESS RANKING-3s	RESOURCES RANKING
19	11	4

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	7,392 ¹
School districts that offer state program.....	32% (communities)
Income requirement	60% of children must be at or below 75% SMI
Hours of operation	Determined by type of slot ²
Operating schedule	Determined by type of slot ²
Special education enrollment.....	4,865
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	5,945
State-funded Head Start enrollment	939

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?
Early learning standards.....	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree.....	BA, or CDA + 12 credits in EC (public); ³ CDA + 12 credits in EC (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Cert. in EE w/ pre-K endorsement, N-K, or SpEd w/ pre-K-12 endorsement (public); ³ Meets CDA requirements (nonpublic)	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	75 CEUs/5 years + 6 hours annual training (public); 1% of hours worked + 6 hours training (nonpublic) ⁵	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, and dental; ⁶ and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁸	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring.....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

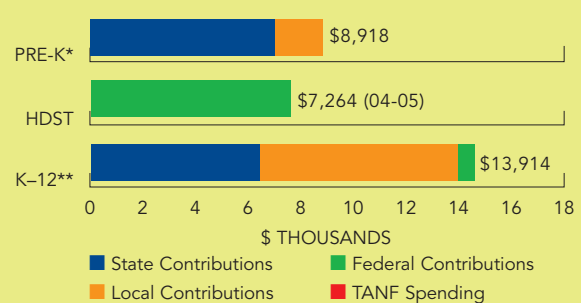
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

6

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$52,490,190 ⁹
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$4,521,150
State spending per child enrolled	\$7,101
State spending per 3-year-old.....	\$227 ¹
State spending per 4-year-old.....	\$974 ¹

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 '05-'06 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ The state did not break enrollment into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds, so all age breakdowns are estimates using averages from states that did have age counts.

² There are four types of slots, including full-day (10 hours)/full-year; school-day (7 hours)/school-year; part-day (2.5 hours)/school-year; and extended-day (slots that extend the hours, days and weeks of a non-School Readiness program to meet full-day requirements). All programs operate 5 days per week and about 75% of programs are full-day, though each community chooses its own specific combination of slots. Funding levels vary by the type of slot.

³ A certified teacher must be present at least 2.5 hours per day. For the rest of the day, teachers in public schools must meet the requirements for nonpublic school settings.

⁴ Assistant teachers must meet teacher requirements if acting in the capacity of lead teacher for part of the day. In full-day programs, assistant teachers generally act in a lead capacity for half of the program day and must meet the qualifications for lead teachers.

⁵ The 6 hours additional annual required training includes a minimum of two trainings in ECE/child development and one training in serving children with disabilities. The 75 CEU requirement is additional for public school programs.

For nonpublic settings, child care licensing regulations of 1% of total hours worked apply.

⁶ Programs are required to provide health screening and referral and must provide additional services directly or through contract with another agency. All children must have an annual well-child checkup that conforms to EPSDT standards. Most communities provide vision, hearing and dental checkups.

⁷ Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and written collaborative agreements with community agencies.

⁸ Programs are required to serve one snack to children who attend less than 5 hours per day and one snack plus one meal to children in class for 5 to 8 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.

⁹ This figure includes \$48,129,642 for Priority School Districts and \$4,360,548 for Competitive Districts. An additional \$13,431,939 in local funds was reported.