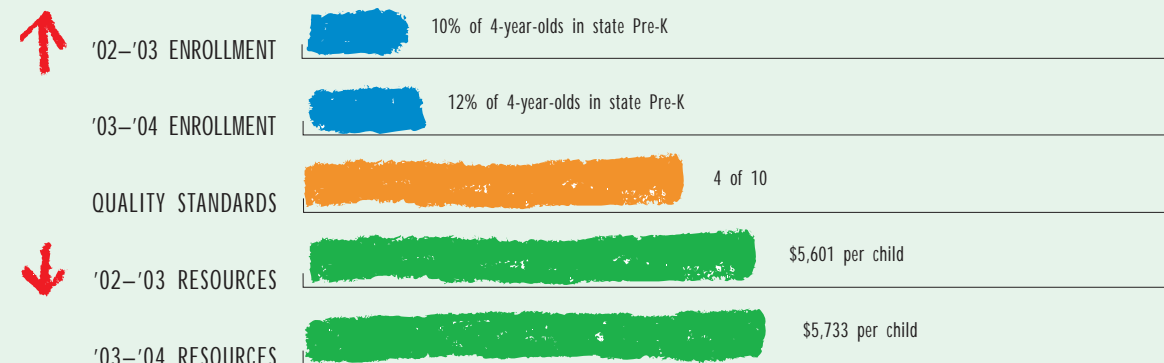


# Connecticut



↑ Up from '01-'02   ↓ Down from '01-'02   = No change from '01-'02

Connecticut has provided funds for School Readiness programs since 1997 to increase access to high-quality preschool programs. Three- and 4-year-olds are eligible to participate. At least 60 percent of children served in each community must have family incomes at or below 75 percent of the state median income. Families participating in the program are charged fees on a sliding scale basis. Communities are allowed to exempt families in part-day programs from paying fees, and the state has issued guidelines on other types of exemptions.

The state allocates funds to priority school districts and awards competitive grants to schools considered to have severe needs. The mayor or superintendent designates a fiscal agent to receive the funds and local School Readiness Councils provide guidance on how to distribute the funds to individual programs. Programs may be offered in public schools, child care centers, and Head Start centers that are accredited or have state approval. At least 60 percent of slots must be full-day, full-year slots.

Professional development opportunities for staff, as well as other efforts, have contributed to the establishment and implementation of preschool standards. A recent focus has been to link these standards with the Preschool Assessment Framework.

In 2003–2004, School Readiness programs received approximately \$37,576,500 from the state to fund 6,554 slots for 3- and 4-year-olds.

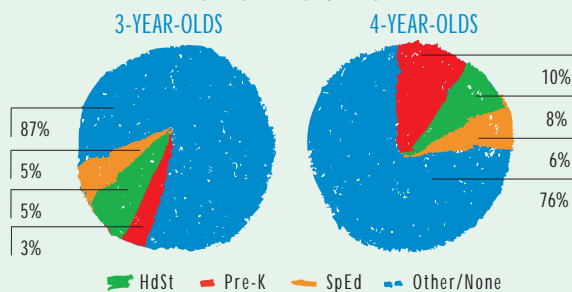
Connecticut also supplemented Head Start funds in 2003–2004 with \$4.5 million in state general funds. While most of these funds were used to enhance services to existing classrooms, they also supported an estimated 332 additional Head Start slots for 3- and 4-year-olds.



## ACCESS

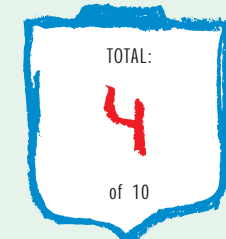
Total state program enrollment - - - - - 6,369  
 School districts that offer state program - - - 26% (communities)  
 Income requirement - 60% of students must be at or below 75% SMI  
 Hours of operation - - - - - Determined by type of slot<sup>1</sup>  
 Operating schedule - - - - - Determined by type of slot<sup>1</sup>  
 Special education enrollment - - - - - 4,812  
 Federally funded Head Start enrollment - - - - - 5,505  
 State-funded Head Start enrollment - - - - - 332<sup>2</sup>

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



## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

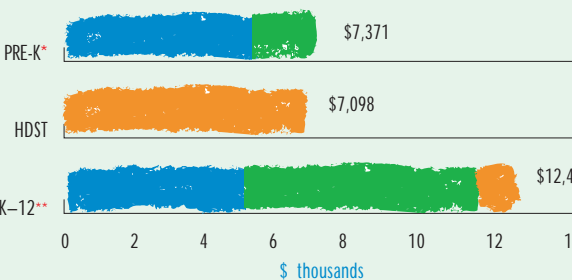
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards - - - - -	Not comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement - -	BA or CDA (public), CDA (nonpublic) <sup>3</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement - - - - -	[see footnotes] <sup>3</sup>	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement - - - - -	None <sup>4</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement - - - - -	75 CEUs/5 years (public), 1% of hours worked (nonpublic) <sup>5</sup>	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 requirements - - - - -	Health <sup>6</sup>	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required support services - - - - -	2 parent conferences and support services <sup>7</sup>	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement - - - - -	Varies <sup>8</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending - - - - - \$35,674,423  
 Local match required? - - - - - No  
 State spending per child enrolled - - - - - \$5,601  
 State Head Start spending - - - - - \$4,500,000  
 State spending per 3-year-old - - - - - \$191<sup>9</sup>  
 State spending per 4-year-old - - - - - \$584<sup>9</sup>

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 '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Each community chooses its own specific combination of slots. Types of slots include full-day, full-year (10 hours per day, 50 weeks per year), part-day, part-year (2.5 hours per day, 180 days per year), and extended-day (extends the hours, days, and weeks of a non-School Readiness program to meet full-day requirements). At least 60% of slots in each community must be full-day, full-year. All programs operate 5 days per week, and about 75% of programs are full-day.  
<sup>2</sup> This figure represents an estimate based on the number of state-funded slots in Head Start reported by the state, and proportions of Connecticut's federal Head Start enrollees who were 3 or 4 years old.  
<sup>3</sup> Programs operating in public schools are required to have a certified teacher present for at least 2.5 hours per day. Three types of certification are accepted: Elementary with a Pre-K endorsement, Nursery-K, or Special Education with an endorsement in Pre-K-12. For the remainder of the day, the teacher present must have a CDA plus 9 credits in early childhood.  
<sup>4</sup> Assistant teachers must meet teacher requirements if they act in the capacity of lead teacher for part of the day, which they generally do in full-day programs.  
<sup>5</sup> School Readiness program requirements also mandate that teachers take two courses or workshops in ECE and receive training on an annual basis in serving children with disabilities. In addition, they must present documentation that they have attended at least one workshop on emerging pre-literacy skills and one on diversity.  
<sup>6</sup> All children in the School Readiness program must have an annual well-child check up that conforms to EPSDT standards. Some communities provide vision, hearing, and dental check-ups.  
<sup>7</sup> Support services include educational services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, relevant parent workshops, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. In addition, all programs must have written collaborative agreements with community agencies to serve families' needs.  
<sup>8</sup> 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 on the premises more than 8 hours per day require one snack and two meals or two snacks and one meal. Either the program or the parent can provide food for all meals.  
<sup>9</sup> Connecticut did not break its total enrollment figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, these calculations are estimates, based on proportions of enrollees who were ages 3 and 4 in states that served 3-year-olds and provided age breakdowns for 2002–2003.