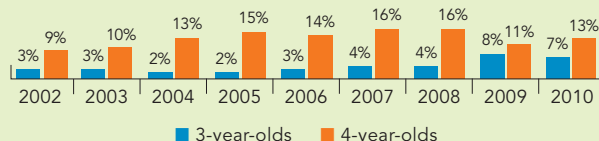


Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2010 DOLLARS)



With the goal of improving access to early education programs for 3- and 4-year-olds, Connecticut established the School Readiness Program in 1997. 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. The School Readiness Program offers preschool funding for 19 priority districts, although they are not required to participate. In addition, competitive grants are available for towns that are identified as within the 50 lowest wealth ranked towns in the state, or towns with a priority school that are not designated as a priority district. 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 program.

The School Readiness Program may be offered through public schools, Head Start agencies, and private child care and faith-based centers. The program offers various slot options in order to accommodate working and non-working families, including full-day, school-day, and part-day slots, which are all available 5 days a week. Full-day slots operate 7 to 10 hours per day for 50 weeks per year. School-day slots are available 6 hours per day while part-day slots operate 2½ hours per day, both for 180 days per year.

Through the Department of Social Services, Connecticut also funds a program serving children up to age 5. To be eligible to participate in this program for free, children must come from families with household incomes less than 75 percent of the state median income. Families are required to go through a redetermination of fee every six months, and families may have to pay a fee or drop out of the program if income has increased significantly. Due to the redetermination process, this program does not meet the NIEER definition of a state-funded preschool program.

Connecticut also dedicated \$4,982,838 million in state funds to supplement federal Head Start during the 2009-2010 program year, thereby creating approximately 400 additional slots, providing additional services, extending the program day and year, and supporting other quality enhancements.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
29	9

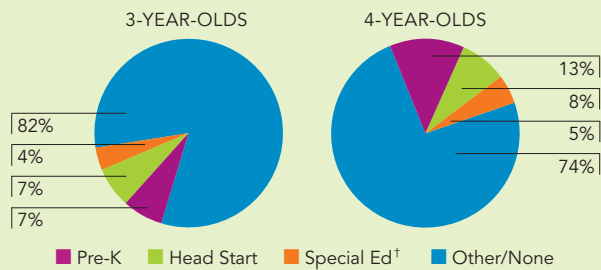
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
2	2

CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	8,960
School districts that offer state program	37% (counties)
Income requirement60% of children must be at or below 75% SMI
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Determined locally ¹
Special education enrollment	5,004
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	6,084
State-funded Head Start enrollment	421 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, dental, health, and support services developmental; 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 BENCHMARK MET

6

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$83,301,663
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$4,982,838
State spending per child enrolled	\$9,297
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$10,441

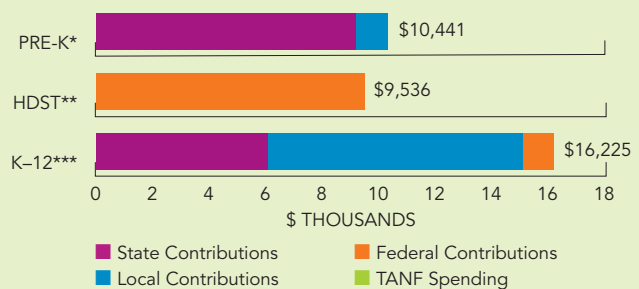
* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '09-'10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



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 hours)/ school-year (180 to 250 days/year). Extended day provides 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, and family literacy and 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 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.