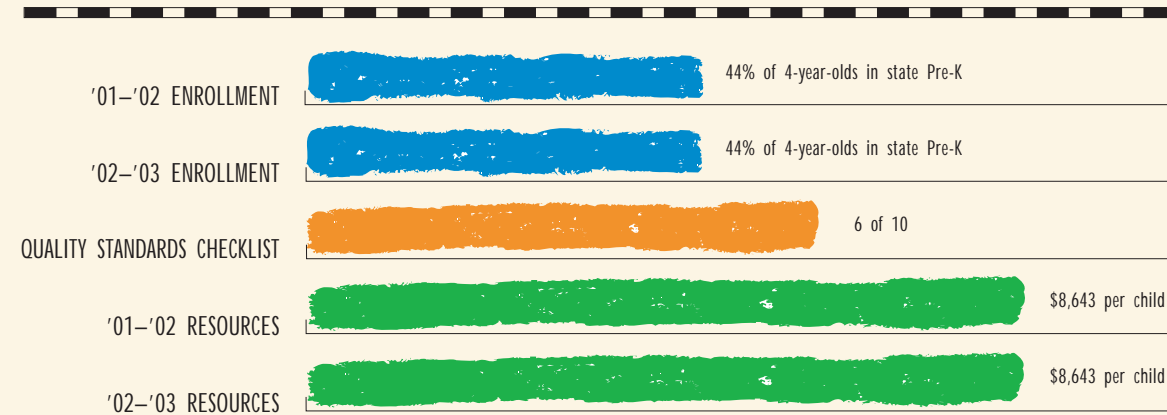


# District of Columbia



The District of Columbia's Public School Prekindergarten program is open to all 4-year-old children in the city. The prekindergarten programs are only operated by public schools, and programs are available in all elementary schools across the city. Prekindergarten funding is provided through the school funding formula with funds allocated on a per pupil basis.

In addition to operating a prekindergarten program open to all children, the District of Columbia Public School System (DCPS) operates federally-funded Head Start programs. DCPS-operated Head Start programs serve children who meet the federal eligibility criteria (an income under 100 percent of poverty). The Head Start programs are available in communities where there are large populations of low-income families who can benefit from the comprehensive family and child support services that Head Start offers. The DCPS-operated Head Start programs are required to follow all federal Head Start Performance Standards. However, the District treats these programs as an integral part of its overall prekindergarten initiative.

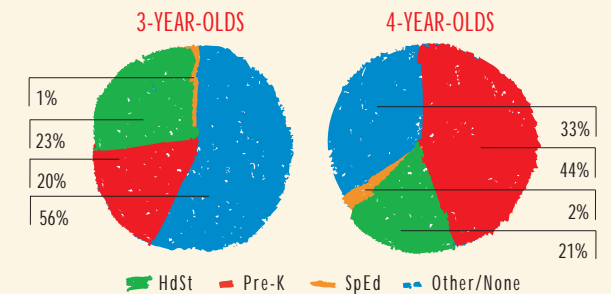
Funding and enrollment for DCPS-operated prekindergarten programs in 2002–2003 was similar to funding and enrollment in 2001–2002. Approximately 4,281 children were served with an estimated \$37,000,000.

This profile, like the preceding state profiles, provides detailed information about access to prekindergarten in the District, program quality standards, and resources. However, the District is not ranked among states on enrollment or resources, given the difficulty of comparing a city to a state. The comparison is particularly complicated given that the DCPS functions as both a state education agency and a local education agency.

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	4,281 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	None <sup>2</sup>
Hours of operation	Full-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	160
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	2,925
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



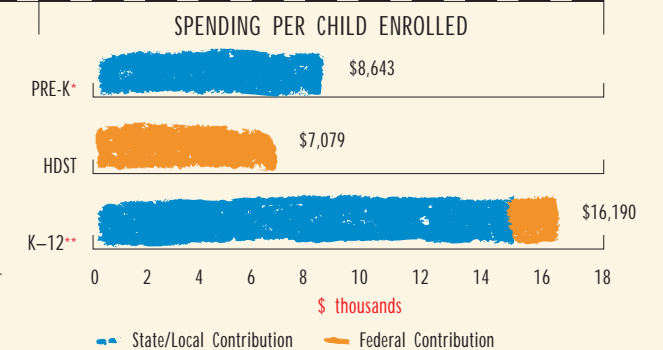
## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Not comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	ECE certification	Specializing in EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	6 credit hours/3 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	15		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	2:15		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral requirements	None <sup>3,4</sup>	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	4 parent conferences <sup>4,5</sup>	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	None <sup>4</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$37,000,000 <sup>6</sup>
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$8,643 <sup>7</sup>
State spending per 3-year-old	\$1,695
State spending per 4-year-old	\$3,835



\* 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.

- This enrollment count includes 1,582 children enrolled in the federally-funded Head Start program operated by the DCPS system.
- Income requirements only apply to children in the DCPS-operated Head Start program.
- Parents must comply with city health requirements for enrollment.
- Children in the DCPS-operated Head Start program receive screenings and referrals, family support services, and meals as required by federal Head Start Performance Standards.
- Children with special needs are provided the services identified through Individualized Education Plans.
- This funding estimate includes \$8,900,000 in federal Head Start funds for DCPS-operated Head Start programs.
- This figure is calculated based on the \$37,000,000 funding estimate. Base funding per child in the program is reported as \$9,189.