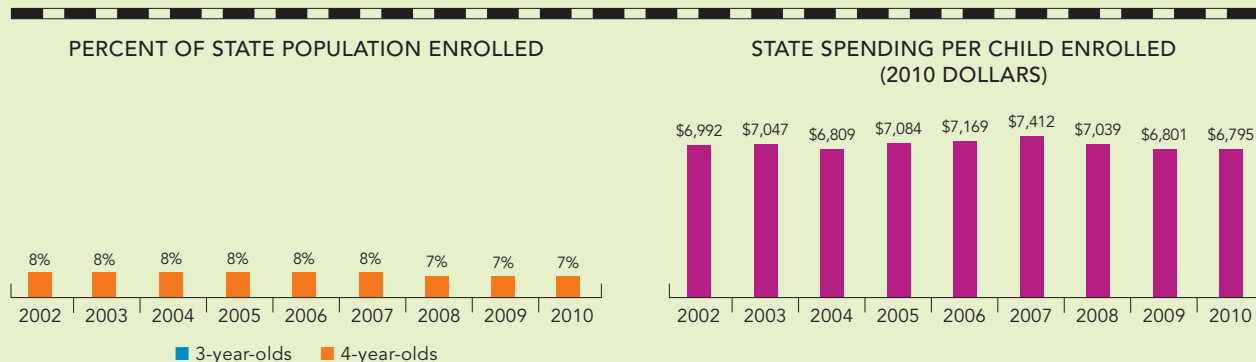


Delaware



In 1994, Delaware’s Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) was established, aiming to expand access to comprehensive early childhood services for 4-year-olds who are income-eligible for Head Start. Ninety percent of children enrolled in ECAP must come from families with an income at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level and 10 percent of available slots must be allocated for children with disabilities. Due to new mandates in the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007, the Early Childhood Assistance Program now allows programs to take up to 35 percent of their funded enrollment from children living in households with incomes at 100 to 130 percent of the federal poverty level and count those children as income-eligible.

Modeled after the federal Head Start program, ECAP requires participating programs to follow federal Head Start Performance Standards. ECAP funding is distributed to Head Start agencies, public schools, private and faith-based centers, and for-profit child care programs, with the selection and location of ECAP grantees guided by the Community Needs Assessment data. Due to the state’s financial condition, there have been no increases in funding for ECAP since 2007.

In 2003, Delaware instituted a mandatory curriculum framework for state-funded preschool education known as the Delaware Early Learning Foundations, which are aligned with K–12 performance indicators and standards and were revised in 2010. In addition, the state is in the process of implementing a quality rating improvement system (QRIS) for early childhood programs. As the QRIS is not yet available for all programs, a minimum rating for each setting is not currently required. Delaware is also in the process of creating a professional development system for preschool educators that will be aligned with the state’s K–12 professional development system. The state is in the process of piloting Teaching GOLD, a web-based assessment, to monitor the progress of children who are enrolled in the ECAP program. Through the 2008 Child Outcome Study, the ECAP program was evaluated for program impact/child outcomes.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
32	None Served

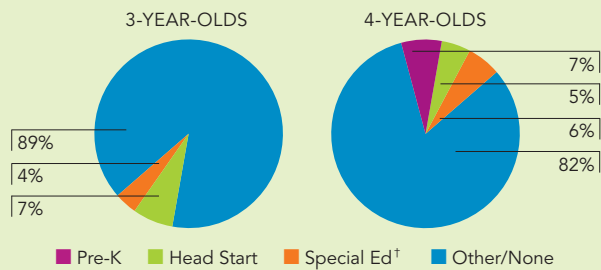
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
7	13

DELAWARE EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECAP)

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	843
School districts that offer state program.....	100% (counties)
Income requirement	90% of children must be at or below 100% FPL ¹
Hours of operation.....	At least 3.5 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Determined locally ²
Special education enrollment	1,501
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.....	1,425
State-funded Head Start enrollment	843 ³

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 ⁴	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	Meets CDA requirements	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree.....	HSD or equivalent ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	18 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health, dental, and support services development; and support services ⁵	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	At least one meal and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

8

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$5,727,800
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$5,727,800 ⁶
State spending per child enrolled	\$6,795
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$6,795

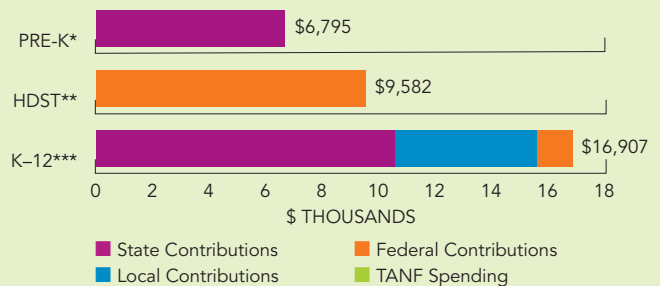
* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** 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 State pre-K children must meet the federal Head Start income guidelines. Effective as of 2007, 35 percent of enrollment may be children whose family incomes are between 100 and 130 percent FPL after priority is given to children at 100 percent or below FPL.

² If programs choose to operate longer than 3.5 hours per day, they must fund the additional portion themselves. Some programs align with the school year.

³ This number represents ECAP enrollment. All state-funded Head Start enrollment is through ECAP.

⁴ ECAP follows the Head Start Performance Standards. The Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 requires that by 2011 all teachers must have at least an AA; by 2013, 50 percent must have at least a BA. By 2013 all

assistant teachers must have at least a CDA or be enrolled in a program to receive a CDA, AA, or BA within two years. Teachers in nonpublic programs must meet Delaware Office of Child Care Licensing requirements of nine college credits in EC, a CDA, or the state-approved courses Training Early Care and Education I and II.

⁵ Support services include four 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 mental health consultation.

⁶ ECAP is a state-funded Head Start model. All state pre-K spending is therefore directed toward Head Start programs.