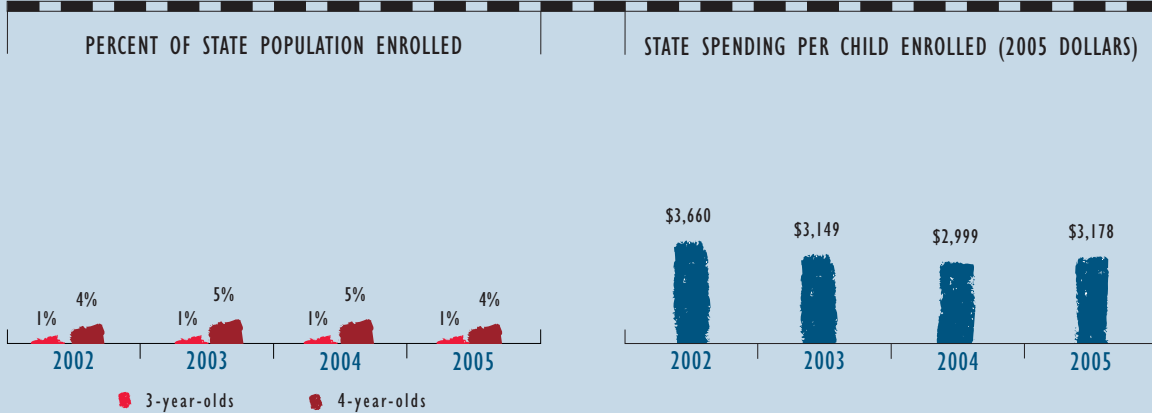


# Iowa



**E**stablished in 1989, Iowa's *Shared Visions* provides a comprehensive child development program for children between the ages of 3 and 5. State funds are distributed to public schools, Head Start centers, private child care centers, and nonprofit agencies through a competitive grant process. At least 80 percent of the available program slots must be filled by children from families with incomes below 130 percent of the federal poverty level. Parents pay for the remaining 20 percent of slots, using a sliding fee scale. These slots are filled based on secondary risk factors such as low birth weight, developmental delay, homelessness, or having a parent who has a substance abuse problem or who is incarcerated. Programs are structured to meet the needs of individual communities and operate from 3 to 10 hours per day.

*Shared Visions* programs have not received funding increases from the state since 1995. A 7 percent reduction in funding for fiscal year 2000 was followed by smaller cuts in fiscal years 2001 and 2003. These cuts have resulted in reduced hours of operation for some grantees, as well as decreased availability of transportation and dental services. Grantees are increasingly reliant upon local funding sources and in-kind contributions.

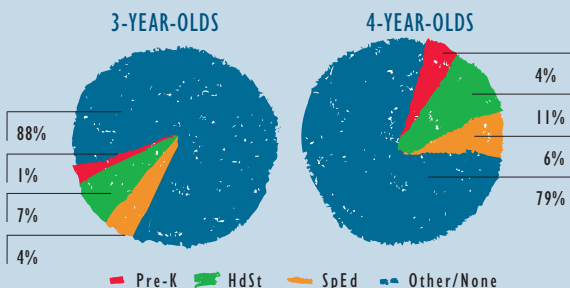
The state has recently developed the Iowa Early Learning Standards and is working toward implementing them in *Shared Visions* programs.



## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	2,167 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program	8% (school buildings) <sup>2</sup>
Income requirement	80% of children must be below 130% FPL
Hours of operation	Determined locally <sup>3</sup>
Operating schedule	Determined locally <sup>3</sup>
Special education enrollment	3,421
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	6,460
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



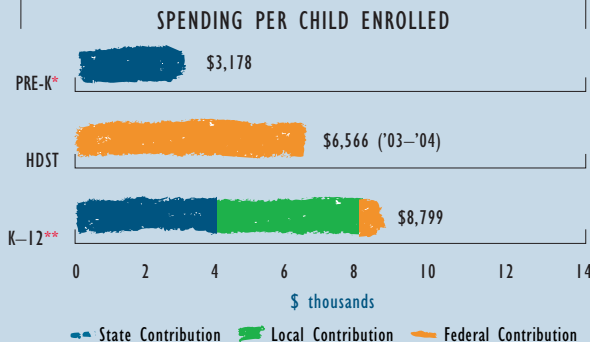
## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	None <sup>4</sup>	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (public); AA for HdSt, none for CC (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EE teaching license with EC endorsement (public), None (nonpublic) <sup>5</sup>	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	None <sup>6</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	1:8		
4-year-olds	1:8		
Screening/referral and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and support services <sup>7</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	1 meal and snack <sup>8</sup>	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring <sup>9</sup>	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$6,887,531
Local match required?	Yes—20% of total grant amount
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,178
State spending per 3-year-old	\$42
State spending per 4-year-old	\$140



\* 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 '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> LEAs can use *Shared Visions* funds to expand kindergarten programs to a full day, and this enrollment number includes 46 slots used for that purpose.

<sup>2</sup> In addition, programs are offered in 14 out of 1,500 licensed child care centers.

<sup>3</sup> Grantees operate at least 3, but not more than 10 hours per day, based on local need and the original grant submitted. All grantees operate at least 4 days per week, but average 4.74 days per week and 181 days per year.

<sup>4</sup> The Iowa Early Learning Standards will be effective as of November 2005. State rules will be revised, requiring programs to implement these standards, which address all of the NEGP domains.

<sup>5</sup> Teachers in nonpublic schools are required to have a state license in child care.

<sup>6</sup> Though there is no specific requirement for the amount of in-service training, most grantees provide at least 15 hours per year.

<sup>7</sup> Although *Shared Visions* does not have specific requirements for screening and referral, applicants are required to address the types of screening and referral that will be provided. All *Shared Visions* programs provide screening and referral for vision, hearing, and health. Decisions about which developmental, dental and nutrition services to provide are made at the local level. The number of required parent conferences is not specified in state regulations, but programs are required to involve and work with parents by providing home visits, instruction on parenting skills, and other services. Additional support services include parenting support or training, at least two family nights, health services for children, information about nutrition, and referral to social services.

<sup>8</sup> The specific meal depends on the time of day children are present. All applicants for *Shared Visions* funding must address meal requirements in their grant applications.

<sup>9</sup> NAEYC determines the percentage of programs that receive site visits and how frequently. In addition, state agency staff visit one-third of classrooms yearly.