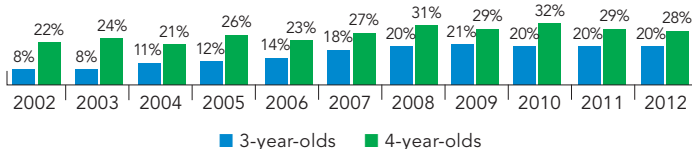
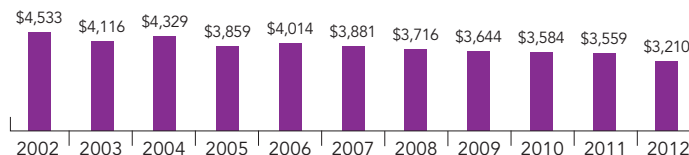


Illinois

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2012 DOLLARS)



The Prekindergarten Program for At-Risk Children was established in 1985 in response to calls for statewide education reform. Funding for the program has been provided since 1998 through the state Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG). The grant is intended to coordinate services for at-risk infants and toddlers, offer parenting training, and support preschool education programs. ECBG is obligated to serve children age 3 or younger with at least 11 percent of its funding.

In an effort to provide access to preschool education to every 3- and 4-year-old in the state, the Preschool for All initiative began in 2006 with the intention of fully funding the program by 2012. Competitive grants are available to a variety of grantees, included private child care and faith-based centers, family child care homes, Head Start programs, and public schools. Although children from all counties may participate in the program, current funding levels prevent the state from offering preschool services for all children whose parents wish to have them enrolled. As a result, the goal of reaching all children has been postponed.

At-risk children were the first funding priority during the expansion phase of Preschool for All, with the at-risk status determined locally by program and based on needs identified by districts and agencies in their grant proposals. Common risk factors include developmental delays, exposure to drug or alcohol abuse in the family, low parent education levels, and a history of family violence, neglect, or abuse. The second funding priority goes to programs that serve families earning up to four times the federal poverty level, although currently no programs proposing to serve children in the second priority have been funded due to a lack of funding to serve all children in the first priority.

As of the 2009-2010 school year, Preschool for All programs are required to meet bilingual education requirements, including that pre-K teachers meet the applicable requirements by July 2, 2014. Pre-K programs serving 20 or more English Language Learners (ELL) speaking the same language must provide instruction in the home language and English, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL). Centers with 19 or fewer ELLs speaking the same language use a locally determined program of instruction, which may include ESL and home language supports as needed.

A Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Stakeholder Committee was organized during the 2010-2011 school year and made recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education concerning the development of a comprehensive assessment process to be piloted in the 2012-2013 school year. In response to the recommendations, a Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) implementation committee was established to provide advice. The Preschool for All program was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes in a three-year evaluation that began in fall 2009 and ended in winter 2012.

Illinois was a recipient of grants from the federal Race to the Top and Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge competitions. As a result, the state is planning some changes affecting state pre-K, such as: a quality rating and improvement system beginning in the 2013-2014 school year and including all Preschool for All programs; revision of the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards to align with Common Core and Head Start Framework being piloted in the 2012-2013 school year and implemented statewide in the 2013-2014 school year; and statewide implementation of the KIDS assessment in the 2015-2016 school year.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
17	1

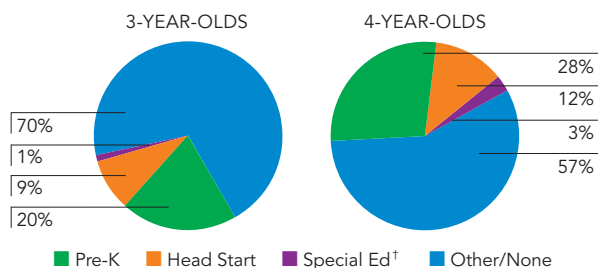
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
29	34

ILLINOIS PRESCHOOL FOR ALL

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	80,914
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement.....	None ¹
Hours of operation	At least 2.5 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	21,616
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4	35,084
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EC certificate	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA or paraprofessional approval ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	120 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 or lower	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Snack ⁵	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

8

RESOURCES

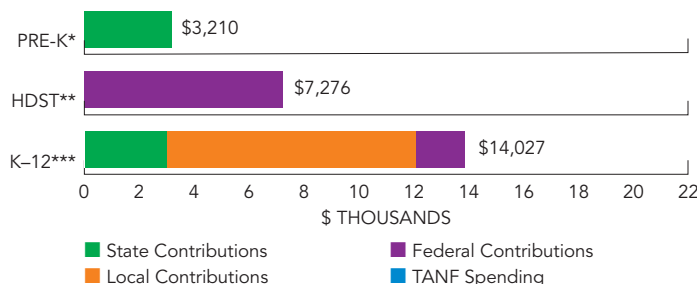
Total state pre-K spending	\$259,770,892
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,210
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,210

* 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 2011-2012 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ While at-risk children from lower income households are the first priority, children from lower middle-income families may be served if state funding allows.

² School-day classes are permissible. Most programs operate 2.5 hour sessions, but 11 percent of programs operate for a school day of 4.5 to 8 hours.

³ Assistant teachers must have an AA or paraprofessional approval. To receive paraprofessional approval, in addition to holding a high school diploma or equivalent, an individual must have completed 30 semester hours of college credit at a regionally accredited institution of higher education; or pass either the ParaPro test offered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) or Work Keys test offered by ACT with at least the score identified by the State Board of Education in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. Based on further clarification, this policy does not meet NIEER's requirement.

⁴ Support services include parent conferences and/or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.

⁵ School-day programs must provide lunch and snacks; part-day programs must provide snacks.