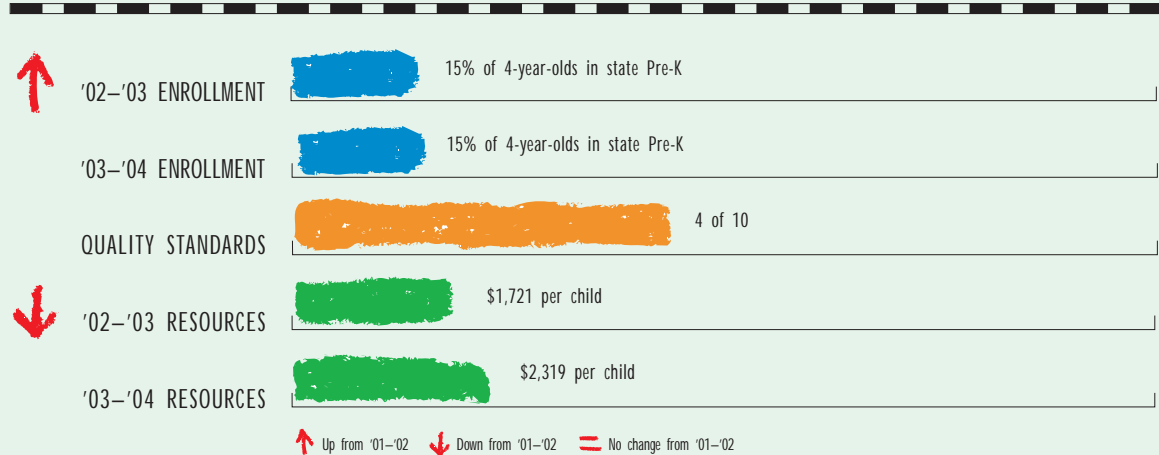


Kansas



In order to serve at-risk children who were not eligible for Head Start, as well as those who were eligible but not enrolled, Kansas began the At-Risk Four-Year-Old Children Preschool Program in 1998. Eligibility criteria for the program include risk factors such as developmental delay, having a single or teen parent, English Language Learner or migrant status, free lunch eligibility, or referral from another agency. This program has grown quickly, and served more than twice as many children during 2002–2003 as during the previous year. Programs receive a base of \$1,800 per student in state funding, and are operated exclusively by public schools.

For families with children from birth to age 3, the state provides a separate Parents as Teachers (PAT) program. With an emphasis on collaboration, all Kansas agencies serving young children share resources and space and have worked together to develop sets of standards, as well as core competencies for staff.

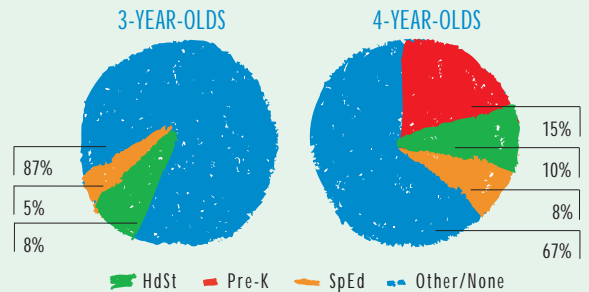
In 2003–2004, the At-Risk Four-Year-Old Children Preschool Program served 4,959 4-year-olds and received approximately \$11.5 million in state general revenue funds. This amount includes tobacco settlement money, which provides some of the funding for the program.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	5,433
School districts that offer state program	35%
Income requirement	130% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	5,191
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	6,310
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

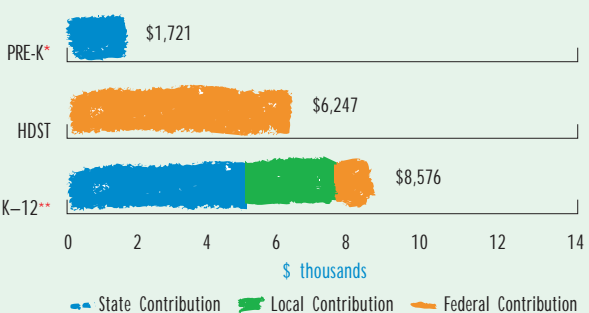
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	4-year elementary teaching certificate	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	2-year degree	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	None ³	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	No limit ⁴		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	No limit ⁴		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision, hearing, general health, dental, and developmental ⁵	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	2 parent conferences and support services ⁶	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	Snack	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL:
4
of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$9,352,323
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$1,721
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$253

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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 '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Eligibility for free lunch (130% of poverty) is one of several risk factors considered sufficient to qualify a child for enrollment. This represents an income of \$19,525 or below for a family of three during fiscal year 2002.
² Programs are required to operate at least 2.5 hours per day and a total of 465 hours per school year. All programs operate 5 days per week.
³ Due to insufficient funding, workshops for professional development are offered but not required. Teachers participate on a voluntary basis.
⁴ Although not mandated by the state, programs are encouraged to follow NAEYC recommendations and limit class size to 15 students with two teachers present. Many programs that combine special education and Pre-K children in the same classrooms require lower teacher-to-student ratios.
⁵ Vision, hearing, and other general health screenings and referrals are not explicitly required, but must be included as part of the grant proposal. The schools must explain in their proposals how they will provide comprehensive health services in order to receive funding.
⁶ Support services include parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, transportation, and transition to kindergarten activities.