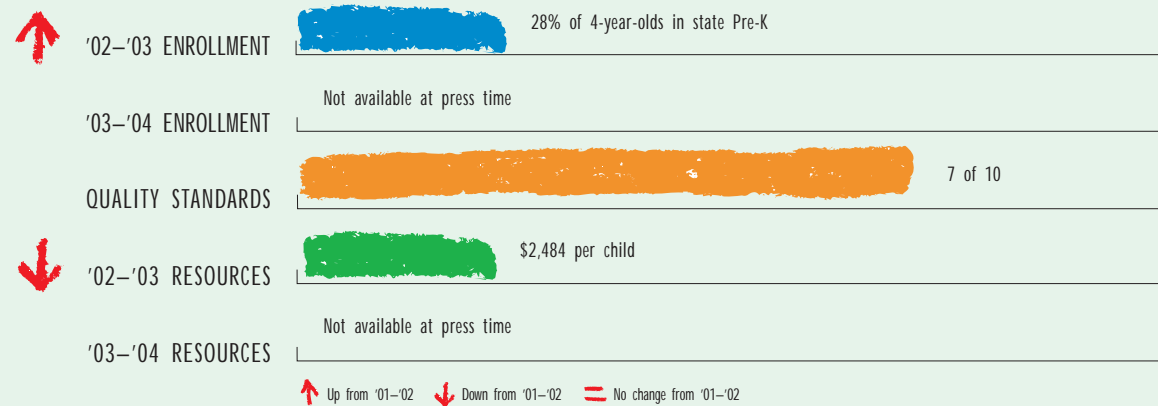


Kentucky



The Kentucky Preschool Program was created as a result of the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 and is offered to 4-year-olds who are eligible for free lunch, as well as all 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities. Most of Kentucky's preschoolers with special needs are served within the program, and 63 percent of all participants had special needs in 2002–2003. All school districts in the state receive funding, although some contract with Head Start, private child care centers, and special education facilities to provide services. Many districts contribute additional funds when state funds are not sufficient. Federal funds from Head Start and IDEA are sometimes blended with state and local funds to support the Kentucky Preschool Program.

State funding for the program has decreased by \$2.2 million since 2001, while the number of eligible preschool children has increased annually by 1,000. In some districts, this has led to cuts in the quality and duration of services offered.

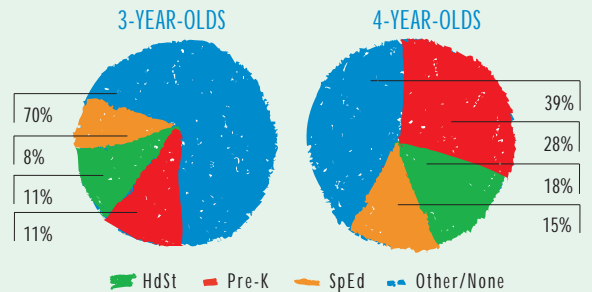
Kentucky continues to strive toward improving education for preschoolers at risk and with disabilities. As of the 2004–2005 school year, the Kentucky Early Childhood teaching certificate will be required for all new teachers. The Kentucky Early Childhood Standards, released in 2003, are aligned with Head Start outcomes and the Kentucky Program of Studies K–12 content. The standards promote a learning continuum across all domains, including social and emotional development, for children from birth to age 4. Recently, the state-funded preschool program, the Head Start Collaboration Office, and the state child care initiative joined to form a new Division of Early Childhood Development within the Kentucky Department of Education.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	18,882
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	130% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	11,128 ³
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	14,624
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION³



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

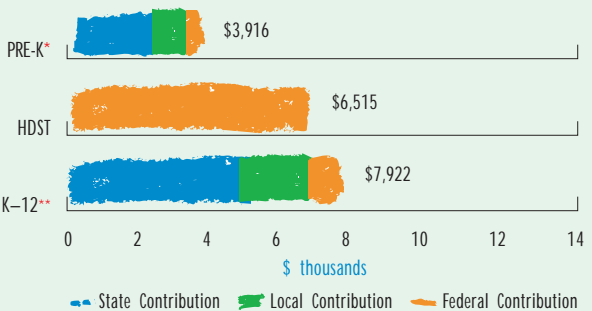
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None ⁴	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	CDA ⁵	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Meets CDA requirements ⁵	Specializing in Pre-K CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	HSD	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	4 days for certified teachers, 18 clock hours for CDAs or AAs	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4-year-olds	1:10	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening/referral requirements	Vision, hearing, health, and developmental		
Required support services	2 parent conferences and support services ⁶		
Meal requirement	Breakfast or lunch		



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$46,900,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,484
State spending per 3-year-old	\$261
State spending per 4-year-old	\$688

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
² K–12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Children with disabilities are not required to meet an income requirement.
² Programs are required to operate for a minimum of 2.5 hours daily plus mealtime.
³ Because the state Pre-K program is inter-related with the state special education program, it is not possible to provide a unique special education enrollment count for Kentucky. The estimates for special education enrollment include some children also counted in the totals for state Pre-K.
⁴ The Kentucky Early Childhood Standards are not intended to serve as a curriculum guide. The document is designed to assist parents and professionals in planning experiences that promote student progress.
⁵ As of the 2004–2005 program year, all new teachers must have a BA and early childhood certification.
⁶ Services offered include education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and other services based on local need.