Kentucky

'01–'02 ENROLLMENT — 24% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K

'02–'03 ENROLLMENT — 26% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST — 7 of 10

'01–'02 RESOURCES — $2,776 per child

'02–'03 RESOURCES — $2,489 per child
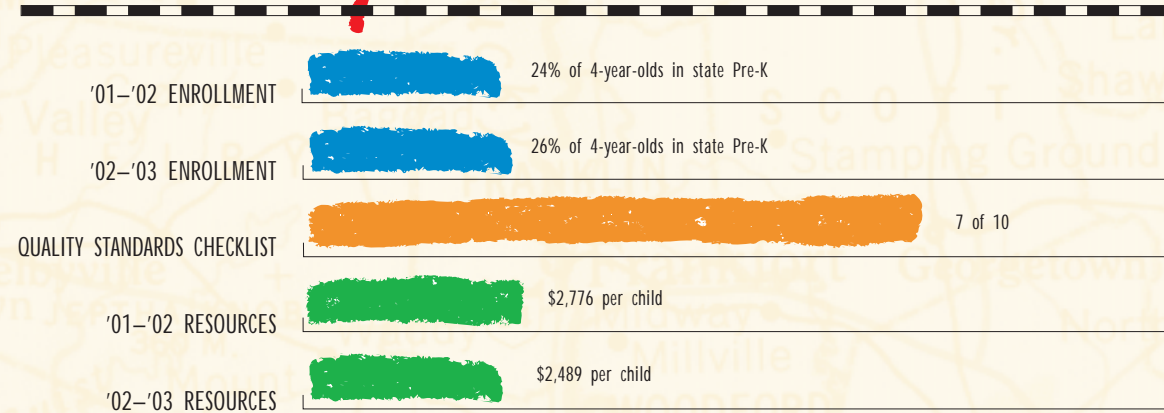
T he Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 established accountability standards for public schools, and created the Kentucky Preschool Program to help schools achieve these standards. The state provides funding to school districts for all 4-year-olds who qualify for free lunch, and for all 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities. In 2002–2003, 61 percent of the children served in the program had disabilities. School districts are required to coordinate with Head Start, so several districts have preschool classrooms that blend state funds with federal Head Start funds. Currently, teachers must have a minimum of a Child Development Associate credential; but beginning in 2004–2005, all new teachers will be required to hold an interdisciplinary early childhood education certificate.

The Kentucky Early Childhood Standards (KYECS) describe what children from birth to age 3 and from ages 3 to 4 should know and should be able to do, across all developmental domains. KYECS uses standards, benchmarks, a developmental continuum, and direct child observation. Content areas are matched to the Kentucky Program of Studies and K–12 content as well as Head Start outcomes.

Funding for the Kentucky Preschool Program was $47,000,000 in 2002–2003, with a total of 5,207 3-year-olds and 13,675 4-year-olds enrolled. In fiscal year 2004, the Kentucky Preschool Program will be funded at the previous year level while serving an additional 1,000 children, thereby reducing per-child funding.

ACCESS RANKING–4s	ACCESS RANKING–3s	RESOURCES RANKING
7	5	21

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	16,681
School districts that offer state program	99% [1]
Income requirement	Free lunch eligibility [2]
Hours of operation	Determined locally [3]
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	10,493
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	15,029
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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

3-YEAR-OLDS
- 75%
- 7%
- 11%
- 7%

4-YEAR-OLDS
- 46%
- 24%
- 17%
- 13%

HdSt   Pre-K   SpEd   Other/None
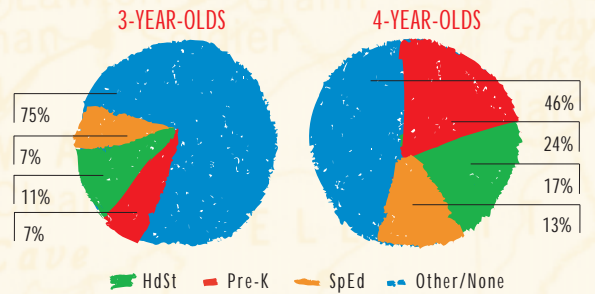
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None	Comprehensive	☐
Teacher degree requirement	CDA [4]	BA	☐
Teacher specialized training requirement	Meets CDA requirements [4]	Specializing in EC	☑
Assistant teacher degree requirement	HSD	CDA or equivalent	☐
Teacher in-service requirement	4 days for certified teachers, 18 clock hours for CDAs	At least 15 hours/year	☑
Maximum class size		20 or lower	☑
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	☑
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision, hearing, and health	Vision, hearing, and health	☑
Family support service requirements	Family support services and 2 home visits [5]	At least 1 service	☑
Meal requirements	Breakfast or lunch	At least 1/day	☑

TOTAL: 7 of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	$46,300,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	$2,776
State spending per 3-year-old	$204
State spending per 4-year-old	$662

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PRE-K* — $2,776

HDST — $6,391

K–12** — $8,197

$ thousands

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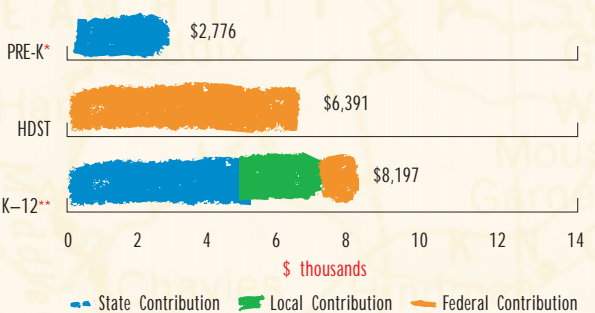
* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** K–12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '01–'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 All districts are required to meet demand, but 2 do this through Head Start and do not offer Pre-K.
2 Children with disabilities do not have to meet any income eligibility requirements.
3 Daily hours of operation vary by program according to the following percentages: 30% 6 hours, 7% 4-6 hours, 25% 3.5 hours and 38% 2.5 hours. Programs are required to operate for a minimum of 2.5 hours daily, and also must provide at least one meal.
4 The minimum teacher degree requirement will change for the 2004–2005 program year, when the requirement for new hires will be certification in early childhood or special education.
5 Services offered include referrals to health and social services, adult education and parenting information.