Kentucky

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED

3-year-olds: 2002 9%, 2003 11%, 2004 11%, 2005 11%, 2006 11%, 2007 11%, 2008 10%, 2009 10%, 2010 10%, 2011 7%

4-year-olds: 2002 24%, 2003 28%, 2004 27%, 2005 30%, 2006 29%, 2007 29%, 2008 28%, 2009 28%, 2010 30%, 2011 32%

■ 3-year-olds ■ 4-year-olds
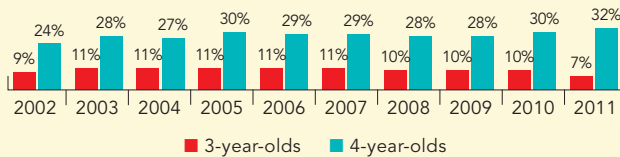
STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2011 DOLLARS)

2002 $3,717, 2003 $3,403, 2004 $2,940, 2005 $3,006, 2006 $2,829, 2007 $3,926, 2008 $3,741, 2009 $3,602, 2010 $3,165, 2011 $3,399
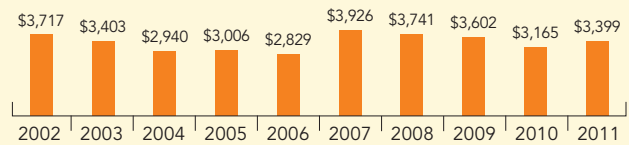
I n 1990, the Kentucky Preschool Program (KPP) was launched in response to the Kentucky Education Reform Act. The Program serves 4-year-olds from low-income families or in foster care as well as 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities. In the 2006-2007 school year, the program increased the income eligibility requirement from 130 percent of the federal poverty line (FPL) to 150 percent of FPL with local districts having the option to enroll additional children if space is available. State funds may not be used to enroll additional children not meeting state eligibility requirements; instead, funding may come from the district or tuition.

According to the December 1 count, 22,165 eligible children participated in KPP in 2010-2011, including 11,447 receiving special education services. Funding for the Kentucky Preschool Program is distributed to local school districts according to a funding formula based on the number of children from the previous year, the number of at-risk children, and by using three levels of disabilities. School districts may subcontract with Head Start programs, private child care centers, and special education providers to offer preschool services. Despite increased at-risk enrollment, a legislative decision made for 2010-2011 resulted in less funding than in 2009-2010, continuing a trend of reduced funding since the 2007-2008 school year.

In 2004, the Kentucky Preschool Program required a bachelor's degree and early childhood/special education certification for all vacated positions. Through attrition, the state continues to steadily increase the number of certified teachers. Some teachers with a CDA or AA have been "grandfathered" into the program.

Kentucky continues its efforts to strengthen program quality and outcomes. Since the 2006-2007 school year, the Kentucky Department of Education has been identifying Classrooms of Excellence that are high-quality, state-funded preschool classrooms. Kentucky continues with its Smart Start initiative established in the 2008-2009 school year by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. Also, the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Development and Education has developed a plan to increase collaboration, raise quality, and define school readiness. As part of Kentucky Student Intervention, the state's version of Response to Intervention, programs implement research-based interventions for children suspected of having a disability.

During the 2010-2011 school year, Kentucky completed the two-year pilot phase of the Preschool Program Review (P2R) statewide monitoring process in which all districts will be reviewed at least once every five years. The P2R requires an ECERS-R for every classroom and an online survey, as well as site visit teams that observe classrooms, examine documentation, and interview teachers, administrators, and parents. The Early Childhood Regional Training Centers have established a pool of trained assessors in each district who will use the ECERS-R in order to help districts improve their teaching and learning processes.

Plans are underway to develop an integrated data management system aligning program and child outcome data from KPP, Head Start, and child care with the K–12 system. The University of Kentucky is playing an instrumental role in this design.

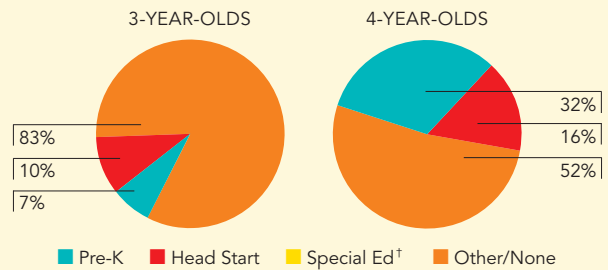| ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
14	9

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
29	14

KENTUCKY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ....22,165 [1]

School districts that offer state program 100%

Income requirement ....150% FPL

Hours of operation ....2.5 hours/day + meal time, 4 or 5 days/week

Operating schedule ....Academic year

Special education enrollment ....10,548 [2]

Federally funded Head Start enrollment 14,875

State-funded Head Start enrollment...0

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

3-YEAR-OLDS

- 83%
- 10%
- 7%

4-YEAR-OLDS

- 32%
- 16%
- 52%

■ Pre-K ■ Head Start ■ Special Ed [†] ■ Other/None

[†] All special education students are included in state pre-K enrollment.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	☑
Teacher degree	BA [3]	BA	☑
Teacher specialized training	Interdisciplinary ECE - Birth to K	Specializing in pre-K	☑
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	☐
Teacher in-service	28 clock hours	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 and support services	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services [4]	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	☑
Meals	Breakfast or lunch	At least 1/day	☑
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	☑

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

9

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending $75,339,610

Local match required? ....No

State spending per child enrolled $3,399

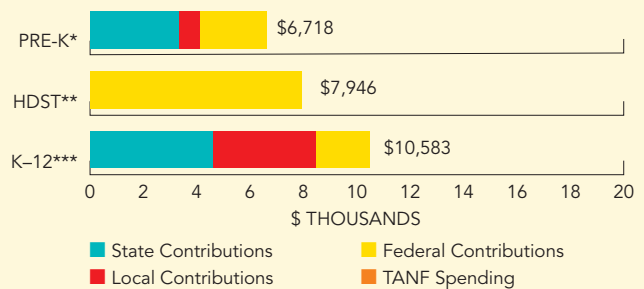All reported spending per child enrolled*..........................$6,718

* 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 2010-2011 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

*** K–12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- PRE-K* — $6,718
- HDST** — $7,946
- K–12*** — $10,583

$ THOUSANDS (0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20)

■ State Contributions ■ Federal Contributions ■ Local Contributions ■ TANF Spending

[1] This total does not include an additional 1,777 4-year-olds who were served through tuition or district funds as of December 1.

[2] Because the state pre-K program is interrelated with the state special education program, the figure for special education enrollment includes 1,177 children receiving special education whose birthdays were after December. 1.

[3] Teachers hired as lead teachers before 2004-2005 can hold a CDA or AA in child development. These teachers are allowed to remain in their current positions but may not transfer to other districts.

[4] Support services include parent education or job training, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, nutrition information, referral for social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and parent conferences or home visits.