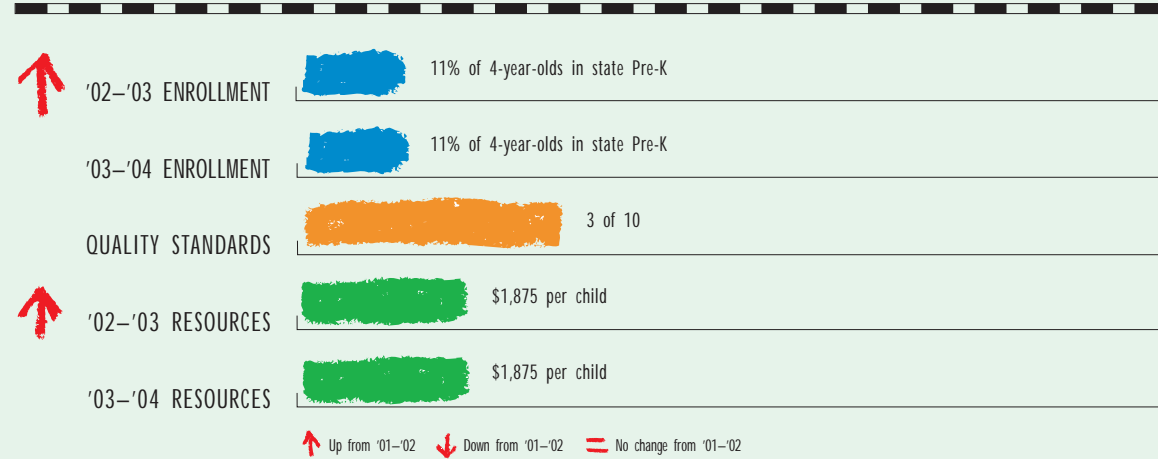


Maine



Initiated by the state Legislature in 1983, Maine's Two-Year Kindergarten Program allows all 4-year-olds in the state to enter the public schools. However, school districts are not mandated to provide kindergarten to 4-year-olds and are only partially reimbursed for it, so the program has remained small. Over the past several years, though, the program has doubled in size with the encouragement of the State Department of Education. As there are no income requirements or other risk factors tied to eligibility, access depends upon the willingness of individual school districts to provide the program. Districts providing prekindergarten are reimbursed through the state aid formula based on the average daily attendance. Prekindergarten programs are all offered within public schools, and schools cannot contract with outside agencies to provide services.

The state continues to encourage districts to develop programs for 4-year-old children, and provided \$5.9 million in combined state and local funds during 2003–2004 to serve an estimated minimum of 1,440 children.

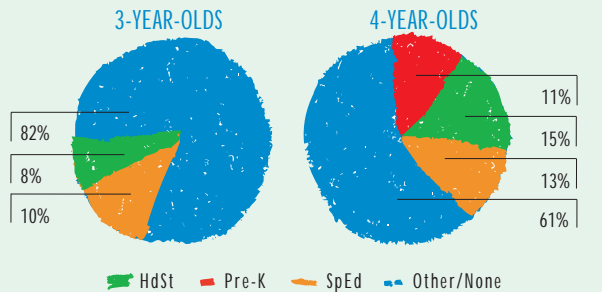
In addition to funding for the Two-Year Kindergarten Program, Maine also provided \$3,581,018 through a combination of state money and tobacco funds to supplement federal Head Start funding during fiscal year 2003.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,440
School districts that offer state program	21%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Determined locally ²
Special education enrollment	3,005
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	2,889
State-funded Head Start enrollment	199 ³

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	EC or elem. certification	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	30 credit hours	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	90 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	No limit		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:18		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision and hearing	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	None	At least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL:

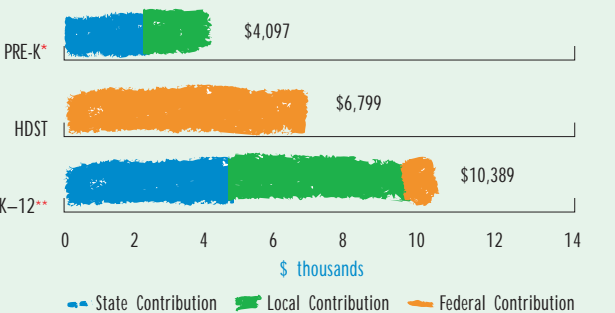
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RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$2,700,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$1,875
State Head Start spending	\$3,581,018
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$203

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 Most programs operate for 2.5 hours per day, and many are moving toward a 4-day-per-week schedule with Fridays used for parent outreach.

² Most programs operate for the academic year.

³ The state did not track the number of additional children served through its Head Start supplement. This figure is an estimate based on the number of non-federally funded children in Maine reported in Head Start's 2002–2003 Program Information Report and proportions of Maine's federal Head Start enrollees who were 3 or 4 years old.