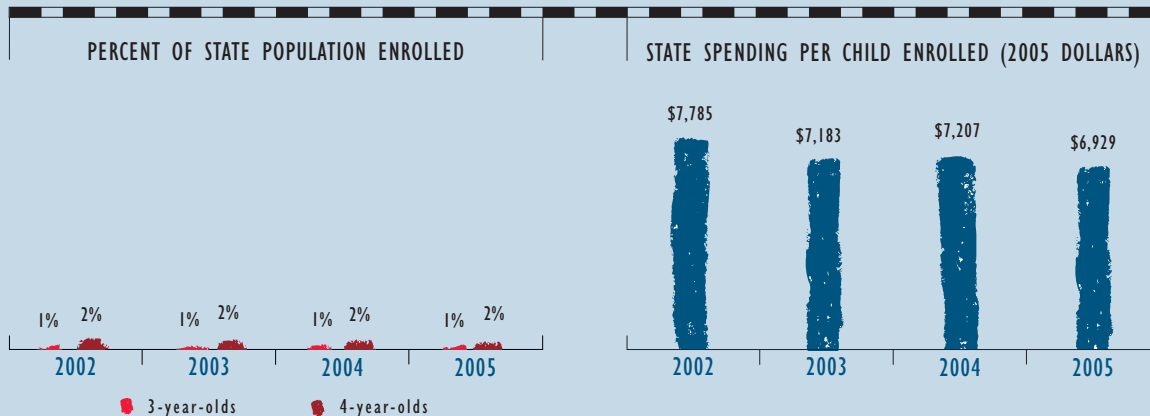


# Minnesota



Minnesota supplements federal Head Start and Early Head Start spending through a state-funded Head Start model. Funds are appropriated to 27 private, nonprofit agencies, seven Tribal Governments, and one public school district. Only federal Head Start grantees that existed prior to 1989 are eligible to receive state funds. Programs supported through this initiative are required to follow standards and provide comprehensive services as specified in the federal Head Start Performance Standards. After decreases in state Head Start funding in 2002–2003 and 2003–2004, the state increased funding in 2004–2005 and again in 2005–2006.

Prior to 2003–2004, the state appropriation for Head Start included an annual \$1 million set-aside for Early Head Start grants. The state no longer has these separate Early Head Start grants, although grantees can propose and obtain approval to use some or all of the state allocation for Early Head Start services. The state also no longer sets aside funding for competitive innovative grants.

A separate initiative, the School Readiness Program, supports more than 22 types of services for preschool-age children and their families. In addition to preschool education, other services include parent education through the Early Childhood Family Education program, home visits, and supplementary services for children with special needs. In this report, the School Readiness Program is viewed as a funding stream supporting a variety of locally selected services for preschoolers rather than as a separate, statewide preschool education initiative.

In 2003–2004, 99 percent of Minnesota’s school districts offered services funded by the School Readiness Program. Individual school districts determine how they will use their funds and what types of services will be offered. If School Readiness funds are used in support of prekindergarten, programs are expected to follow standards specified at the state level, including requirements for a maximum class size of 20, staff-child ratios of 1:10 or better, and family support services. Children are prioritized for services based on needs identified through a comprehensive Early Childhood Health and Development Screening.

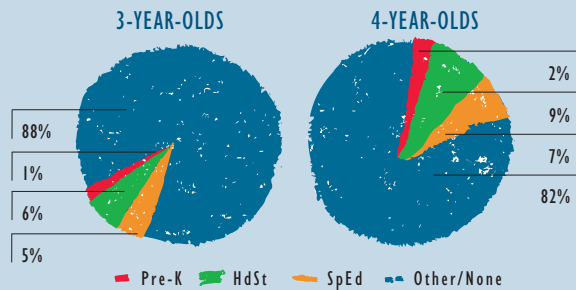
Since the fall of 2002, the state agency has conducted a school readiness study involving a developmental assessment of a random sample of children within the first six weeks of kindergarten entrance. The state’s Early Learning Standards (Early Childhood Indicators of Progress) are aligned with the Minnesota Kindergarten Standards and Head Start Outcomes.



## ACCESS

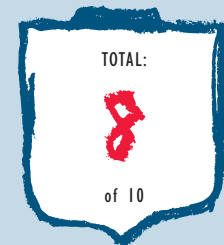
Total state program enrollment	2,468 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program	[see footnotes] <sup>2</sup>
Income req. - 90% of children must be at or below 100% FPL	
Hours of operation	At least 3.5 hours/day, 4 days/week <sup>3</sup>
Operating schedule	Determined locally <sup>3</sup>
Special education enrollment	7,435
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	9,968
State-funded Head Start enrollment	2,048 <sup>4</sup>

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



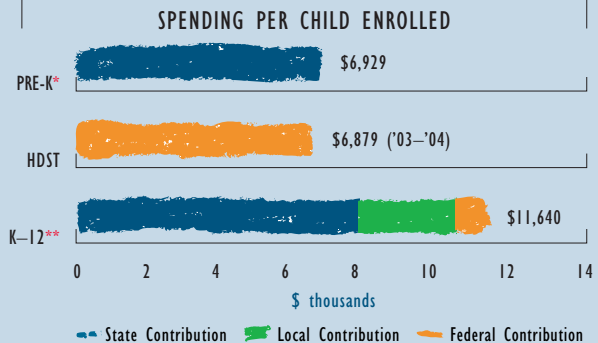
## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	CDA <sup>5</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Meets CDA requirements <sup>5</sup>	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Meets child care regs. <sup>6</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	1.5% or 2% of total work hours <sup>7</sup>	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	17		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	2:17		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Vision, hearing, health, and dental; and support services <sup>8</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Lunch and/or breakfast <sup>9</sup>	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$17,100,000 <sup>10</sup>
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$6,929
State Head Start spending	\$17,100,000 <sup>10</sup>
State spending per 3-year-old	\$86
State spending per 4-year-old	\$133



\* 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 '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- This enrollment total includes an estimated 268 children under age 3 and an estimated 152 5-year-olds.
- In 2004-2005, Head Start funding was allocated to one school district, seven tribal governments, and 27 private, nonprofit agencies, each serving one or more counties. State Head Start grantees include all federally designated Head Start grantees in Minnesota as of 1989.
- Programs must comply with federal Head Start Performance Standards or receive explicit state approval for any proposed variation that does not comply with federal standards. Programs must operate at least 3.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, and 32 weeks per year.
- This is an estimate of the total number of 3- and 4-year-olds. Grantees generally do not identify enrollment by funding source.
- Programs must comply with the Head Start Act, which requires that at least 50% of all Head Start teachers nationwide in center-based programs have an associate's, bachelor's, or advanced degree in early childhood education—or in a related field, with experience teaching preschoolers. The majority of teachers employed in Minnesota Head Start programs have at least an associate's degree and a certificate/licensure/endorsement for preschool education.
- Assistant teachers in settings subject to child care regulations must work under the supervision of a teacher, be at least 18 years old, and meet one of nine combined credential, educational, and experience requirements, such as a high school diploma, 12 quarter units in early childhood or a related field, and 2,080 hours of experience.
- Non-degreed staff are required to complete 2% of their total working hours for in-service training (full-time employment requires 40 hours of in-service), and degreed staff are required to complete 1.5% of total working hours for in-service training.
- Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.
- Federal Head Start Performance Standards require part-day programs to provide children with at least one-third of their daily nutritional needs, and full-day programs to provide one-half to two-thirds of daily nutritional needs.
- All spending through this initiative is directed toward Head Start programs.