

# Montana

## NO PROGRAM

While Montana does not provide state-funded pre-K as defined in this report, the state has taken several steps to address early learning. In 2013, Montana submitted an application in the third-round for competitive Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge funding. Though the collaborative application was not funded, the Governor's Office, Office of Public Instruction, Board of Public Education, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana University System, and the State Library, identified the goal to make all Montana children school-ready, in its comprehensive early learning and development vision.

The Best Beginnings Advisory Council (BBAC), established in 2011, serves as the state early childhood advisory council and collaborating entity for the early childhood system. A core principal for BBAC is that children will have access to high quality early childhood programs. The Early Childhood Services Bureau within the Department of Public Health and Human Services serves as the home for BBAC. Additionally, 23 Best Beginnings local coalitions work to increase coordination across early childhood systems.

Best Beginnings STARS to Quality Program is Montana's voluntary quality rating improvement system, aligning quality indicators with support and incentives for early childhood programs and early childhood professionals. Piloted in 2012-2013, participating programs are eligible for quarterly quality improvement awards, tiered reimbursement increases for families receiving state scholarships, and professional development incentives.

The Montana Early Learning Standards, revised in 2014, cover multiple domains including: physical well-being and motor development; social-emotional development; approaches toward learning; language development; and cognitive and general knowledge. The standards, which are voluntary, were aligned with the state's infant/toddler standards, Head Start Child Outcomes Framework, and Montana Common Core Standards for kindergarten.

A report from the U.S. Department of Education indicate that at least 559 general education students were enrolled in district-operated preschool programs in the 2011-2012 school year.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
No Program	

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	0
School districts that offer state program .....	NA
Income requirement .....	NA
Hours of operation .....	NA
Operating schedule.....	NA
Special education enrollment.....	938
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	3,919
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	0

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

## RESOURCES

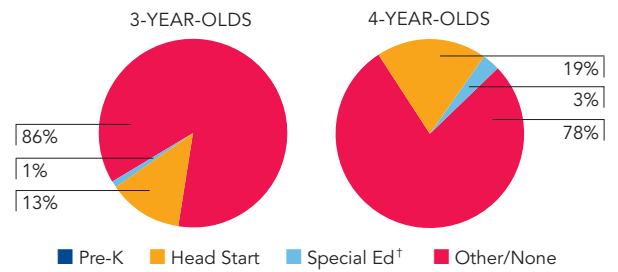
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$0
Local match required? .....	NA
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$0

\* 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 2012-2013 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

\*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '12-'13 school year, unless otherwise noted.

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



† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start.

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET  
**No Program**

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

