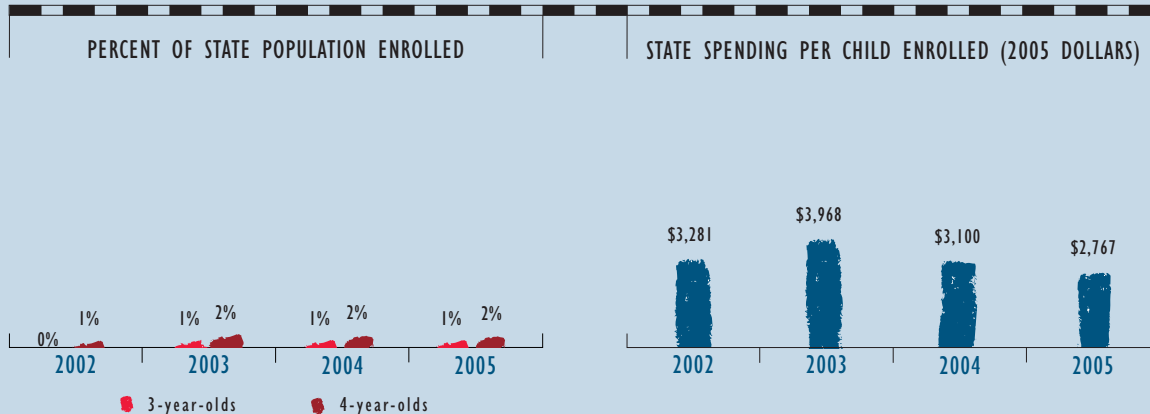


Nevada



The Nevada Early Childhood Education Comprehensive Plan (ECE) began operating in 2002 to fund new prekindergarten programs in the state and expand existing programs. Funding is provided through a competitive grant process to public schools and community-based organizations including private child care centers, family child care homes, and Head Start. Grantees are required to offer programs that are responsive to needs of the host community; each program develops detailed eligibility criteria based on those needs. Children from birth to age 5 are eligible to receive services, although most enrollees are 4-year-olds. All programs give priority to children from low-income families. ECE program quality is controlled primarily through the requirements of the competitive grant process rather than through explicit policy.

An additional initiative known as Classroom on Wheels (COW) offers preschool opportunities for 3- and 4-year-olds. COW makes scheduled stops using buses that have been refurbished as classrooms. Initially a grassroots effort, COW has grown into a statewide program. Until 2003, it was funded as a line item in the state budget, without specific program requirements. Beginning with the 2003–2004 program year, the COW initiative was consolidated under the same legislation as the ECE initiative. As a result, the quality standards for ECE now apply to COW as well, and the data in this report represent both programs for the first time.

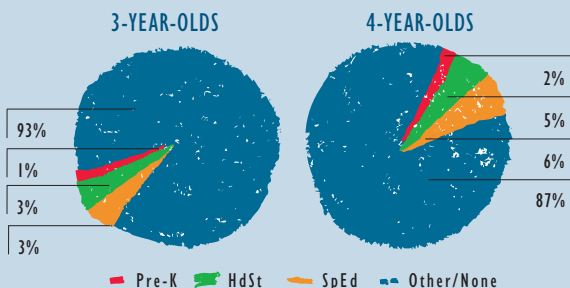
In 2004, state content standards for prekindergarten were adopted, and then a statewide professional development system was created for training teachers on the standards. Nevada’s state-funded Pre-K programs will be required to follow the state’s early learning standards during the 2005–2006 school year. Additional changes for ECE effective during 2005–2006 include new requirements that programs operate at least 10 hours per week and that each program have a plan for a longitudinal evaluation of its effectiveness for children’s academic achievement and parental involvement. An earlier recommendation for maximum group sizes of 16 children for 3-year-olds and 20 children for 4-year-olds—with two adults present in each group—was changed to a requirement. Also, a guaranteed set-aside for COW was eliminated, and COW programs were required to compete for funding along with ECE programs.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,047 ¹
School districts that offer state program	65%
Income requirement	None ²
Hours of operation	Determined locally ³
Operating schedule	Determined locally ³
Special education enrollment	2,951
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	2,872
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



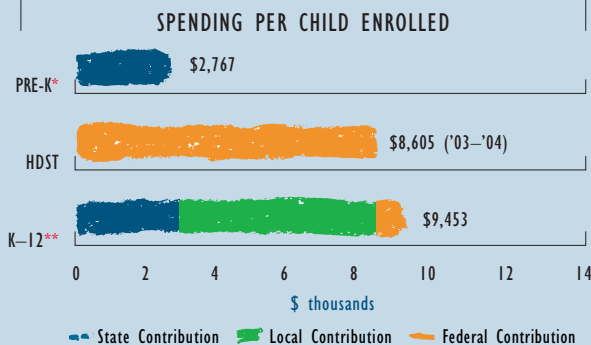
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	None ⁴	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA ⁵	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE license or EC endorsement on K-8 license ⁵	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	GED or HSD ⁶	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	5 credit hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit ⁷		
4-year-olds	No limit ⁷		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit ⁷		
4-year-olds	No limit ⁷		
Screening/referral and support services	Support services only ⁸	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$2,896,583
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,767
State spending per 3-year-old	\$16
State spending per 4-year-old	\$68



* 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 14 children under age 3.
- Although there is no income requirement, all programs give priority to children from low-income families.
- Most programs operate 2.5 hours per day, 4 days per week and follow a typical school year.
- The Nevada Pre-Kindergarten Content Standards were approved in March 2004, and beginning in 2005-2006 all programs will be required to use the standards. The standards are specific to preschool-age children and address all NEGP domains. A professional development system has been created that includes training for teachers on the standards, and guidebooks for teachers and parents.
- Currently employed COW teachers were grandfathered in as of 2003-2004, with the goal that they fulfill the teacher credential requirements. All new hires must be credentialed teachers, and most COW classrooms now have a credentialed teacher.
- Assistant teachers in Title I schools must meet applicable requirements.
- As of 2005-2006, all classrooms must have two adults, with a maximum class size of 16 for 3-year-olds, 20 for 4-year-olds, and 25 for 5-year-olds.
- Screening and referral requirements are decided at the local level. Each program is required to have a parent involvement component that typically encompasses home visits, classroom volunteering, literacy nights, parenting classes, workshops, ESL classes, and parent conferences.