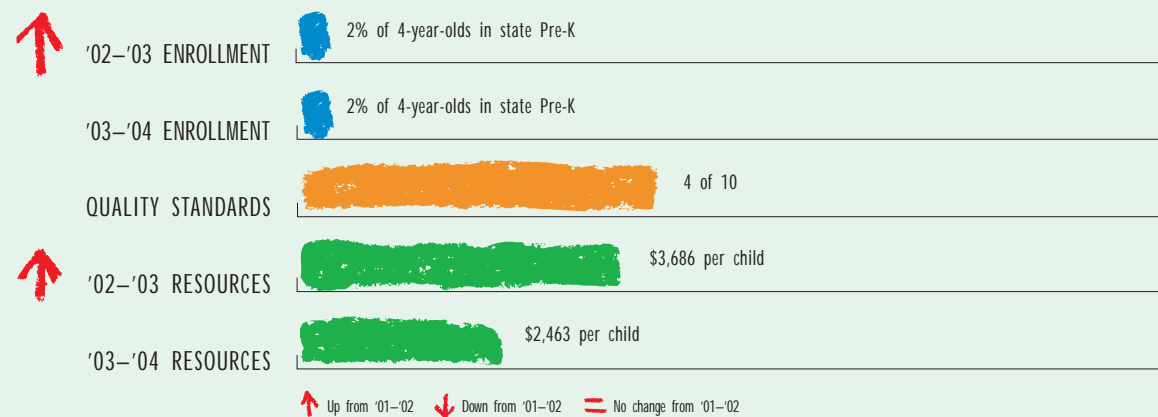


Nevada



In operation since early 2002, the Nevada Early Childhood Education Comprehensive Plan (ECE) was established to fund new prekindergarten education programs in the state and to expand existing programs. Funding is available to school districts and community-based organizations—including family child care homes, private child care centers, and Head Start agencies—on a competitive grant basis. In order to receive funding, each provider must tailor a program to meet demonstrated needs of the host community and develop detailed eligibility criteria. All ECE programs are required to provide additional services to parents, including parenting education and opportunities for parent involvement. Program quality is controlled primarily through the competitive grant process rather than through explicit policy.

The ECE program provides services to children from birth to age 5 and most programs give priority to children from low-income families. All teachers must be licensed and are paid on the public school salary scale, regardless of program location.

Due to state budget constraints, 2003–2004 funding was decreased to \$2,595,583, which supported services for 1,054 children. However, Nevada ECE showed a commitment to improving classroom quality by recommending programs follow NAEYC guidelines and pursue accreditation. The state will also implement new content standards for prekindergarten.

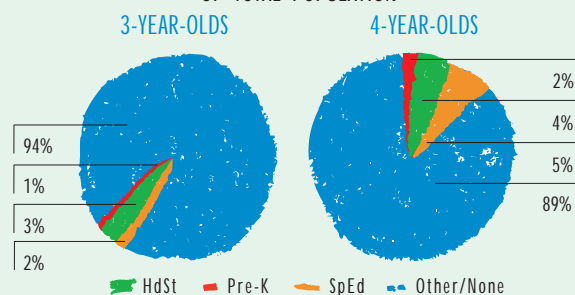
Nevada also provides funding for a separate program known as Classroom on Wheels (COW), which offers preschool opportunities for 3- and 4-year-olds through the use of buses refurbished as classrooms. Initially a grassroots effort to provide early childhood services to children from low-income families, COW has grown into a statewide program and is in the process of raising its standards to meet the same requirements as other state-funded preschools. All data in this report are specific to the Nevada Early Childhood Education Comprehensive Plan.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	814 ¹
School districts that offer state program	65% (counties)
Income requirement	None ²
Hours of operation	Determined locally ³
Operating schedule	Determined locally ⁴
Special education enrollment	2,486
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	2,329
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



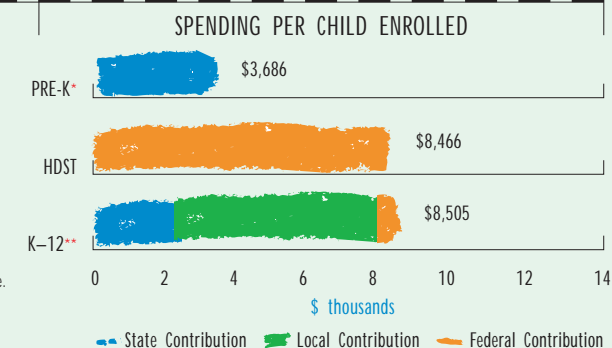
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	ECE teacher license	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	GED or HSD ⁵	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	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 ⁶		
4-year-olds	No limit ⁶		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit ⁶		
4-year-olds	No limit ⁶		
Screening/referral requirements	Determined locally	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	Support services ⁷	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL:
4
of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$3,000,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,686
State spending per 3-year-old	\$25
State spending per 4-year-old	\$57



* 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.

- Total enrollment includes an estimated 88 children younger than 3 years of age who were enrolled during 2002–2003.
- However, all programs give enrollment priority to students from low-income families, and specify detailed eligibility criteria that align with individual program needs. Many programs offer priority enrollment to children with limited English proficiency.
- Most programs operate 2.5 hours per day and 4 days per week.
- The yearly Pre-K schedule is need based. Most programs operate for the academic year. Children in center-based programs were served an average of 38.8 hours per month for 7.3 months out of the year.
- Teachers in Title I schools must fulfill degree requirements set forth by Title I.
- Programs must provide a rationale for class size and staff-child ratio. The state recommends that they follow NAEYC guidelines, and in 2002–2003 all sites maintained a staff-child ratio of 1:8 or better.
- Support services include parenting support or training and parent involvement activities. Additionally, each program is required to have a parent involvement component that is sensitive to individual needs. A prescribed number of parent conferences is therefore deemed unnecessary. In 2002–2003, most programs provided home visits and parent conferences to the majority of families served.