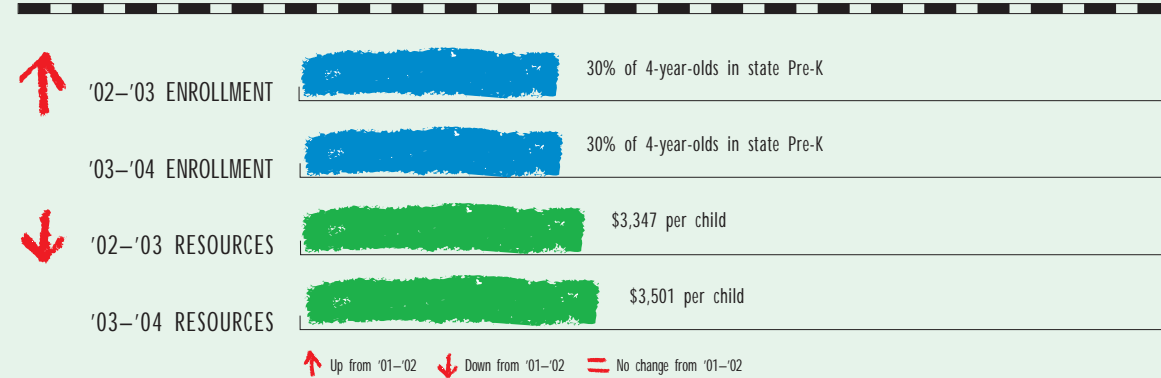


New York



In 1966, the New York state Legislature created and began funding the Experimental Prekindergarten program (EPK), a half-day preschool program similar to Head Start. This program serves 4-year-olds living in one of 97 districts that were selected to be phased in as the program was implemented. Priority is given to children from economically disadvantaged families, including families eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, TANF, food stamps, or one of several additional federal programs supporting low-income families. EPK seeks to provide comprehensive services such as social services, nutritional information and family involvement opportunities. All programs are operated by public schools, and teachers are required to have a Master's degree (unless they had a Bachelor's degree prior to 1978). Teachers must also have certification in Nursery-Grade 6 or, if certified after February 2004, Birth-Grade 2. State funding for EPK peaked at \$54 million in fiscal year 1995, but the program has experienced flat or reduced funding in subsequent years. Effective with the 2003-2004 budget, the EPK initiative has been renamed the Targeted Prekindergarten Program. For the corresponding program year, \$50.2 million was appropriated to support a projected enrollment of 1,336 3-year-olds and 12,482 4-year-olds.

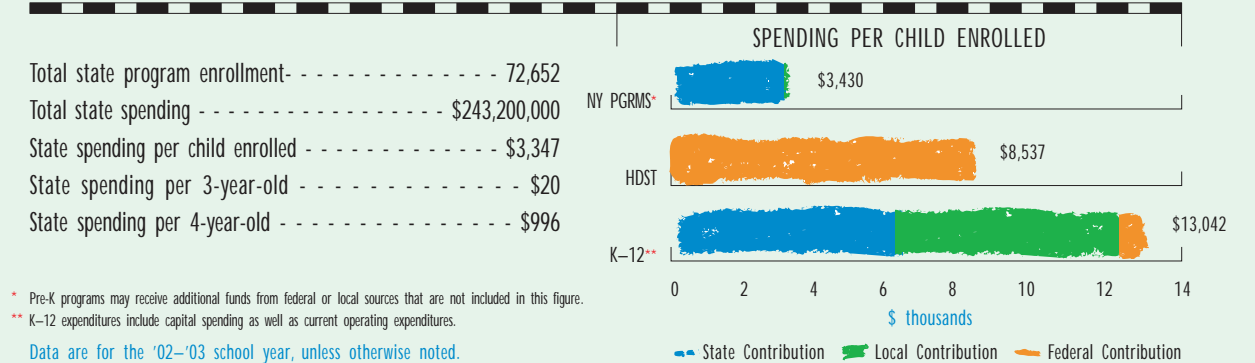
A second state-funded prekindergarten initiative—the Universal Prekindergarten program (UPK)—was established in 1997 with the goal of making prekindergarten accessible to all 4-year-olds in New York state. School districts were to give priority to economically disadvantaged children during the initial stages of implementation and then gradually increase access so that by 2002 the program would be available to all 4-year-olds whose families wanted to participate. However, planned program expansion has not occurred, as in recent years UPK state funding has been level. To date, the program reaches only about one-quarter of the state's 4-year-olds, primarily serving children from low-income families.

UPK funds flow through public schools, although at least 10 percent of funds must go to subcontracts with Head Start, private child care providers, or other community-based organizations. In practice, more than half of UPK funds are subcontracted to these agencies. All public school teachers in the UPK program must meet the same degree and certification requirements that apply to teachers in the EPK program. As of September 2004, teachers in community-based UPK programs will be required to have these same credentials as well.

During the 2003-2004 year, the state appropriated \$204.7 million for UPK, with a projected enrollment of 58,984 4-year-olds.

Although most states have a single state-financed prekindergarten initiative, New York makes significant contributions to prekindergarten through two separate initiatives—EPK and UPK. As a result, in the first two pages of this profile we present summary information reflecting the state's overall commitment to prekindergarten. Enrollment and state spending for both the EPK and UPK initiatives are taken into account. Next, we present specific details about each initiative in the state. The third page of this profile focuses exclusively on the UPK program, while the final page focuses exclusively on the EPK program.

STATE OVERVIEW

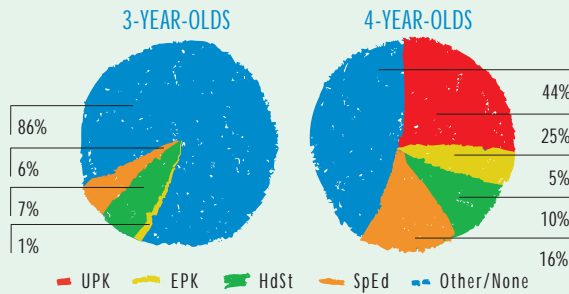


NEW YORK UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	58,460
School districts that offer state program	28%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	53,735
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	41,496
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



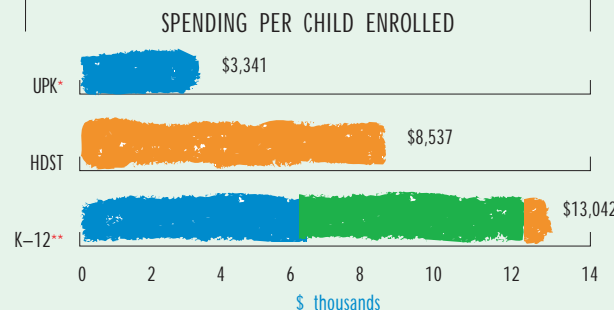
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA prior to 1978, MA after (public); None (nonpublic) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
Teacher specialized training req.	Certification in N-6 (public), 9 credits toward CDA (nonpublic) ^{2,3}	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
Assistant teacher degree requirement	HSD + 6 credits in EC or related field (public) ⁴ , HSD (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	175 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:9 or 3:20		
Screening/referral requirements	None ⁵	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	Support services ⁶	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	Varies ⁷	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$195,300,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,341
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$816



* 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.

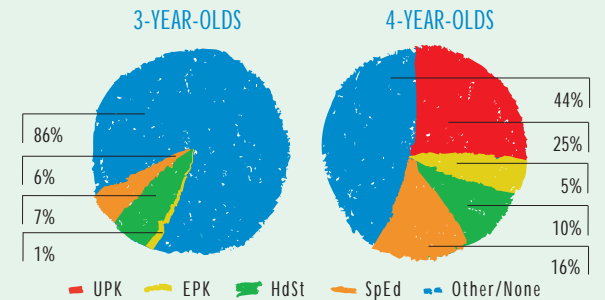
- Programs may be full-day (5 hours) or half-day (2.5 hours). About 83% of enrollees attend a half-day program. All programs operate 5 days per week.
- Effective in September 2005, UPK teachers in nonpublic school settings must meet the same degree and certification requirements as teachers in public school settings. When this requirement goes into effect, the UPK program will meet the NIEER benchmarks for teacher degree requirements and teacher specialized training requirements.
- For the 2002-2003 school year, districts reported 80% of all UPK teachers to be state certified. In February 2004, the required certification changed to cover Birth-Grade 2.
- Effective February 2004, assistant teachers in public schools must have a Level 1 certification (one year non-renewable), which requires a high school diploma or equivalent and passing of the Assessment of Teaching Assistant Skills Test.
- UPK policy requires every child to have a signed medical statement stating that the child is free from contagious or communicable diseases and has been immunized in accordance with Public Health Law. If a child does not meet this requirement the family will be referred to resources in the community. The district does not directly provide the exam or immunizations.
- Support services include parent involvement activities, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and other services determined by family needs. The number of required annual parent conferences or home visits is determined locally.
- UPK programs operating less than 3 hours must provide a nutritional meal and/or snack. Programs operating more than 3 hours must provide appropriate meals and snacks to ensure that nutritional needs of children are met.

NEW YORK EXPERIMENTAL PREKINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

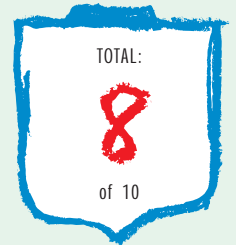
Total state program enrollment	14,192
School districts that offer state program	14%
Income requirement	Economically disadvantaged ¹
Hours of operation	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	53,735
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	41,496
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



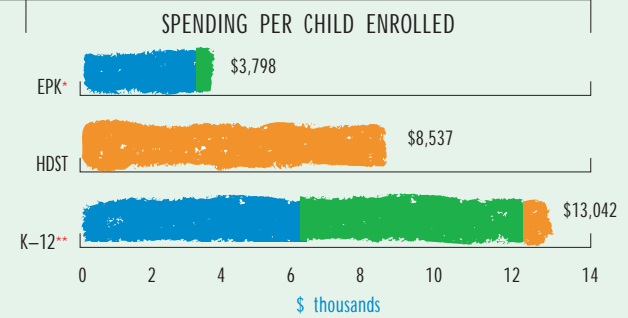
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA prior to 1978, MA after	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Certification in N-6 ³	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	HSD + 6 credits in EC or related field ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	175 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:9 or 3:20		
4-year-olds	1:9 or 3:20		
Screening/referral requirements	None	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	Support services ⁵	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	At least 1 meal	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$47,900,000
Local match required? - Yes—at least 11% of funding must be local	
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,375
State spending per 3-year-old	\$20
State spending per 4-year-old	\$180



* 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.

- Economically disadvantaged is defined as applying to children whose families are eligible for some form of assistance such as free or reduced-price lunch, food stamps, Medicaid, unemployment compensation, or disability compensation.
- Programs may be full- or half-day, and operate 4 or 5 days per week.
- In February 2004, the required certification changed to cover Birth-Grade 2.
- Effective February 2004, assistant teachers must have a Level 1 certification (one year non-renewable), which requires a high school diploma or equivalent and passing of the Assessment of Teaching Assistant Skills Test.
- Support services include parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, and other services determined by family needs. The number of required annual parent conferences or home visits is determined locally.