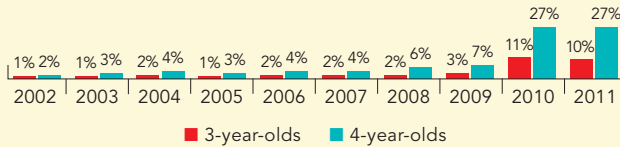
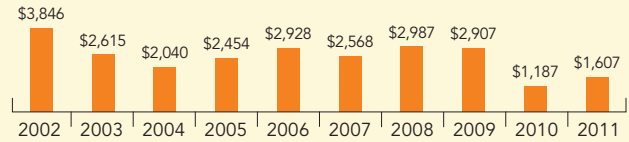


Nebraska

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2011 DOLLARS)



Originally started as a pilot program in 1992, the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Program – Ages 3 to 5 expanded in 2001. This program provides educational services primarily to at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds. At least 70 percent of grant funding received by each participating preschool program must be used to serve children with one of the following four risk factors: eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch, living in a home in which English is not the primary language, being born prematurely or with a low birth weight, and having teen parents or parents who have not completed high school. The program seeks to integrate children of diverse social and economic characteristics.

Funding goes directly to public schools and education service units that partner with child care centers as well as Head Start agencies and/or human services agencies to provide services. In their first year, grantees may use up to half of their grant amount for start-up costs. Every year, grantees receive funding for up to half the cost of a classroom, though they are required to match 100 percent of the continuing operating cost of the classroom using local and/or federal sources. Through an annual process, this initiative is evaluated on both process quality and program impact/child outcomes.

Legislation passed in 2005 allows 4-year-olds to be included in the school district state-aid formula. To be eligible to include these students in the state aid formula, school districts must first be approved for three consecutive years. There has been a large increase in the number of children served in state-funded prekindergarten since 2005. The 2009-2010 school year was the first time students in programs receiving state aid were included in the enrollment count. Programs receiving state aid are required to use the same types and levels of matching funding from federal and local sources as are used by non-state aid programs. However, the state does not track federal and/or local spending for programs that receive state aid.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
18	6

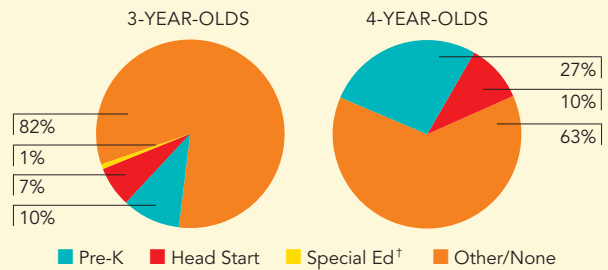
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
38	37

NEBRASKA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM – AGES 3 TO 5

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	10,182
School districts that offer state program	70%
Income requirement	185% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	3,058
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	4,442
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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 state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Certification and EC endorsement ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	12 semester hours in CD	CDA or equivalent or ECE or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	12 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input 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 .....	.....	1:10	
4-year-olds .....	.....	1:10	
Screening/referral	Determined locally;	Vision, hearing, health; and support services only ⁴ at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Snack	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

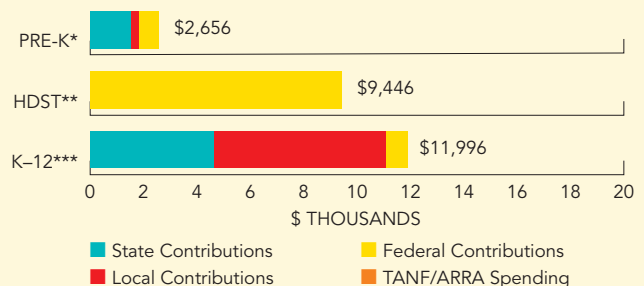
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

6

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$16,365,481
Local match required?	Yes, 100% ⁵
State spending per child enrolled	\$1,607
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,656

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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 2010-2011 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Seventy percent of each program's funding must be used to serve children having at least one of the risk factors, only one of which is family income. The other risk factors are child disability or developmental delay, non-English speaking family members, teen parent, parents who have not completed high school, or low birth weight or premature birth.

² Most programs operate part-day, 3.5 to 4 hours per day, 4 or 5 days per week.

³ Certification types include ECE Birth–grade 3, EC Special Education Birth–grade 3, Preschool Disabilities Birth–K, ECE Unified Birth–grade 3.

⁴ Support services include home visits, parent conferences, parent involvement activities, transition to kindergarten activities, and other locally determined services.

⁵ There is a requirement of 100% match of grant funds, although it is not required to come from a local source. The state does not track matching funds from local and federal sources for programs that receive state aid so these funds are not reflected in all reported spending.