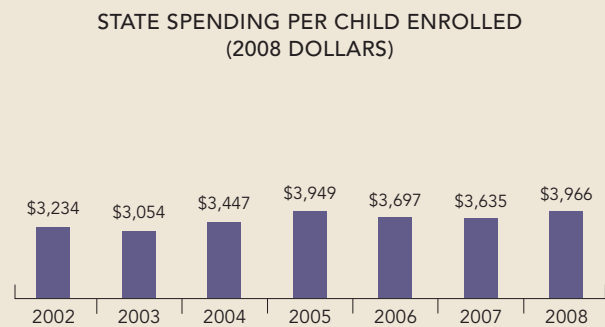
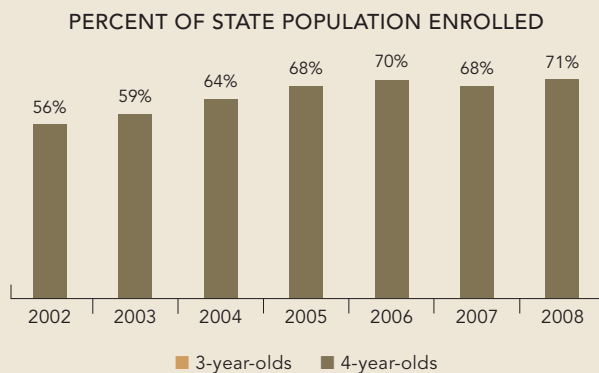


Oklahoma



In 1980, Oklahoma established a pilot preschool education program, the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program, aiming to eventually serve all 4-year-olds. In 1990 the program received statewide funding, but the state limited prekindergarten funding to only 4-year-olds eligible for Head Start, although districts could provide the program to other children using local funds or tuition. In 1998, Oklahoma offered free, voluntary access to state-funded preschool for all of its 4-year-olds, becoming the second state in the nation to do so.

Enrollment in the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program has steadily increased over the years with 99 percent of school districts now choosing to offer the program. Starting with the 2003-2004 school year, Oklahoma has ranked first in the nation every year for the percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled. In addition, greater proportions of 4-year-olds are now attending full-day programs.

Public school districts receive funding for the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program directly through the state's school finance formula. Districts are reimbursed at the district's per-pupil rate, with specific funding amounts or weights based on whether prekindergarten is offered for a half or full day. While districts receive funding directly, they may subcontract by placing a public school teacher with another type of provider, including Head Start programs, child care centers, and other community-based programs. During the 2007-2008 school year, more than 4,100 children were enrolled in collaboration programs. Children enrolled in these collaboration programs are considered public school enrollees and therefore receive the same services as children served at public schools.

Recently, the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program formed partnerships between public schools and child care facilities that receive the highest rating in the state's quality rating system for child care (three stars). Oklahoma anticipates that more three-star facilities will participate as more incentives are expected to be offered.

Through a separate initiative, Oklahoma also supplements the federal Head Start program to expand services and enrollment, offer family services, and develop early intervention strategies. Head Start programs received \$2,905,602 in state funds in fiscal year 2008.

In addition, Oklahoma established the Pilot Early Childhood Program during the 2006-2007 school year. This program is available to at-risk children from birth through age 3. The program is funded by public and private funds to provide a year-round program. Enrollment in the pilot program continues to expand each year, with 219 3-year-olds served in the 2007-2008 school year.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
1	None Served

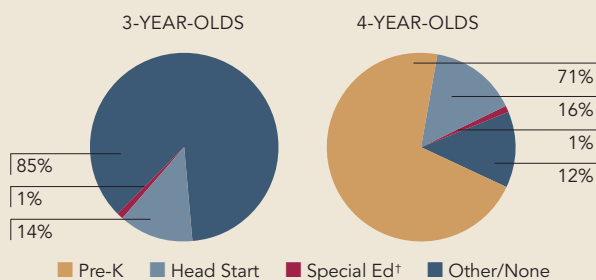
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
17	8

OKLAHOMA EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUR-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	35,231
School districts that offer state program	99%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	2.5 hours/day (part-day) or 6 hours/day (full-day); 5 days/week ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	3,771
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	15,022
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0 ²

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



[†] This number represents 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/BS	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EC certification for birth-3	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	See footnotes ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	75 clock hours/5years	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	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health, and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	At least 1 meal ⁵	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

9

RESOURCES

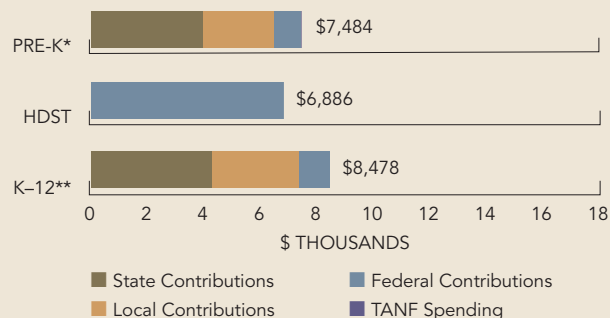
Total state pre-K spending	\$139,735,129 ⁶
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$2,905,602 ²
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,966
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,484

* 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 '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Providers may choose from either of two program options: a half-day program with 2.5 instructional hours daily, a full-day program with 6 instructional hours daily, or a combination of both options. All programs operate 5 days per week.

² State Head Start funds are used to expand services, offer family services, develop early intervention strategies, and expand enrollment, although it is unknown how many additional slots are funded.

³ Assistant teachers must meet federal requirements to be highly qualified under NCLB. They must have an AA, or 48 credit hours of college coursework, or pass one of two state-approved tests that do not have specific educational requirements. One test is the Oklahoma General Education Test (an exam required for pre-K-12 public school teachers) and the other is a national test for para-professional status.

⁴ Dental services are determined locally. Support services include two parent conferences or home visits annually, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. Programs must also offer or make referrals for other services including mental health services, and all other typical public school program services (such as early intervention, transition programs or literacy coaches).

⁵ At least one meal is provided through the Federal Child Nutrition Program, but specific meals depend on the length of the program. This federal program does not provide snacks for students, so snacks are determined locally.

⁶ State spending was calculated on a percentage of the total program spending amount provided.