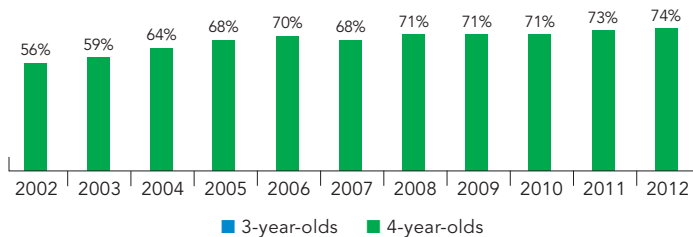


Oklahoma

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2012 DOLLARS)



Oklahoma established the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program as a pilot pre-K program in 1980 with the goal to eventually serve all 4-year-olds in the state. In 1990, the program received statewide funding limited to those 4-year-olds who were eligible for the federal Head Start program, although districts had the option of provide the program to additional 4-year-olds through local funds or tuition. In 1998, Oklahoma became the second state in the nation to offer free, voluntary access to preschool programs for all 4-year-olds. The program is now offered in 99 percent of school districts, and enrollment in the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program has steadily increased over the years. Since 2004, this program has been evaluated for program impact/child outcomes in several studies, including an effectiveness study in 2008 and an ongoing longitudinal study by Georgetown University.

Through the state's school finance formula, public school districts receive funding for the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program. A per-pupil rate calculated using weights determined by the age of the child and the length of the program day is used to reimburse districts. Districts are also able to subcontract with other classroom providers by placing public school teachers in community-based programs, child care centers, and Head Start settings. Children attending pre-K in these collaborative sites receive the same services as children in public school settings and are considered public school enrollees. For the 2011-2012 school year, state budget cuts across the board in education affected early childhood education programs, and funding for the state pre-K program was cut proportionally with all other public school grade levels.

Although the state does not provide specific funding for typically developing 3-year-olds, some Oklahoma school districts offer preschool programs for these younger students. Using a combination of Title I, Head Start, special education, and general funds, 2,410 3-year-olds were served in classroom settings during the 2011-2012 school year. Another program, the Early Childhood Expansion Project, used public and private funding to serve 314 children from birth through age 4 during the 2011-2012 school year. For the 2011-2012 school year, Oklahoma also provided \$2,191,700 in state funds to supplement the federal Head Start program, thereby allowing for extended-day and additional services.

In addition, the Pilot Early Childhood Program was launched by the state in the 2006-2007 school year, with a new term beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. Rules and regulations for this program are established by the Oklahoma State Board of Education while funding comes from both public and private sources. Services are provided year-round to at-risk children, using yearly contracts with the Community Action Project of Tulsa County. In the 2011-2012 school year, 2,642 children birth through age 3 were served in this pilot program.

During the 2011 Oklahoma state legislative session, the state's former Reading Sufficiency Act was overhauled. New legislation was designed to ensure that all students are reading on grade level by the end of third grade, focusing on early intervention for children in pre-K. Specific requirements include conducting a series of assessments, reviewing literacy instruction in kindergarten through third grade, and providing intensive interventions (including an individualized reading plan and ongoing progress monitoring) to the students identified as having a reading deficiency.

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

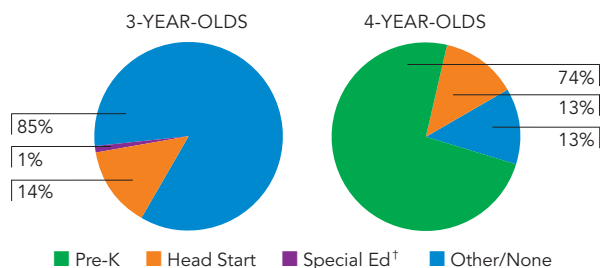
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
22	11

OKLAHOMA EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUR-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	40,089
School districts that offer state program	99%
Income requirement.....	None
Hours of operation	2.5 hours/day (part-day) and/or 6 hours/day (school-day), 5 days/week ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	4,243
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4	14,442
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0 ²

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/BS	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE certification for birth-3	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Must meet NCLB requirements ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	75 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	1:10		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health; and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	At least one 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

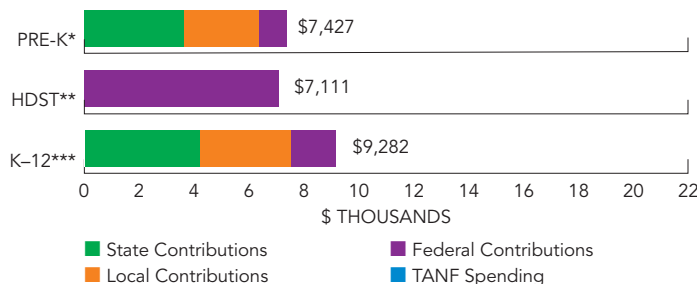
Total state pre-K spending	\$146,406,556
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$2,191,700 ²
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,652
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,427

* 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 2011-2012 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Programs have the option of operating a part-day or a school-day program or a combination of both within each district. Districts can choose to offer a longer day but will not receive additional state funding through the state aid formula. Programs must be offered at least 175 days per year.

² State Head Start funds are used to provide extended-day and additional services.

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 paraprofessional status.

⁴ Support services include parent conferences and/or home visits, 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 (counselor), health services (school nurse), and all other typical public school health services (such as early intervention, transition programs, and literacy coaches).

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