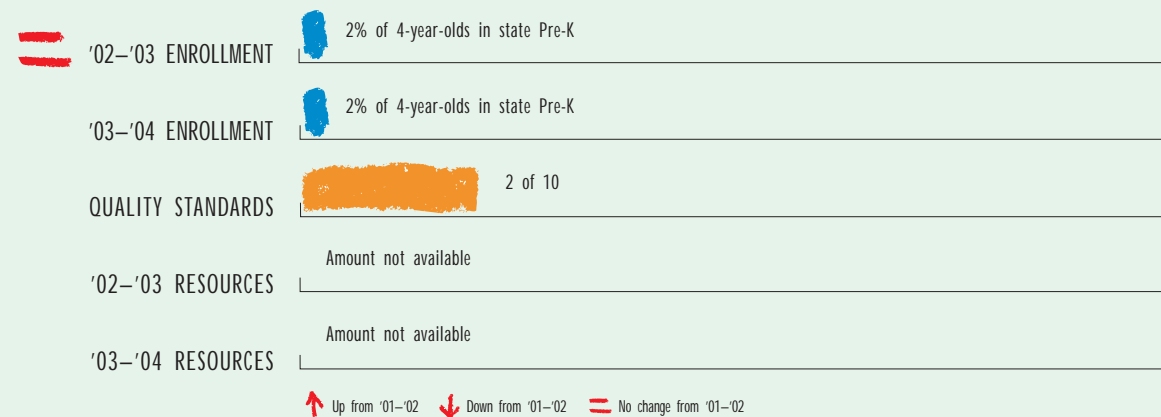


Pennsylvania



Although Pennsylvania does not have a state-funded prekindergarten program, 6 percent of the state's school districts voluntarily provide a preschool education to 4-year-olds through a public school program known as Kindergarten for Four-Year-Olds. State law does not consider this program to be a distinct preschool initiative and the program does not require any specific early childhood standards.

In districts offering Kindergarten for Four-Year-Olds programs, the participants are included in the districts' daily membership counts and are partially funded through the state's basic instructional subsidy formula. Most districts provide additional funding for their programs through local taxes, Title I, or Head Start partnerships. In 2003–2004, districts served 2,438 children through this initiative.

Pennsylvania has taken steps to begin expanding prekindergarten opportunities and providing state funding for preschool. In 2004, the state Legislature approved a new Education Accountability Block Grant totaling \$200 million, two-thirds of which will be dedicated to improving early childhood programs. Individual school districts determine how to target these funds and can use them for a range of purposes, including full-day kindergarten and reduced class sizes in grades K through 3, as well as prekindergarten.

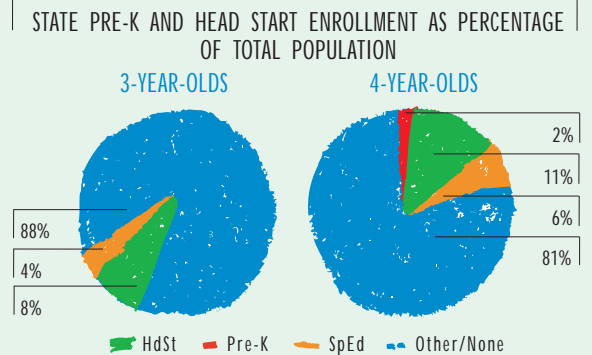
This block grant will provide over \$9 million to 40 school districts, allowing them to serve approximately 3,426 prekindergarten students. Thirteen districts will establish new prekindergarten programs using these funds.

Through a separate initiative, the state provided \$2 million in fiscal year 2003 to support extended-day child care for Head Start participants. As a result of new funding initiatives, \$15 million in state funds has been allocated for 2004–2005 to support Head Start programs. These funds are distributed through a competitive grant process and provide for increases in Head Start enrollment and extended program hours.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	2,609
School districts that offer state program	6%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	14,947
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	26,101
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0 ²



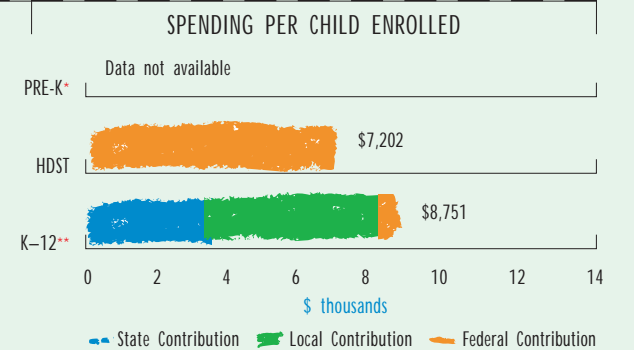
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Not comprehensive ³	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Teaching license and certificate in ECE (Pre-K–3) or EE (K–6)	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	NA ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	6 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	NA		
4-year-olds	No limit		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	No limit		
Screening/referral requirements	Determined locally	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	Determined locally ⁵	At least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL:
2
of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	Not available ⁶
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	Not available
State Head Start spending	\$2,000,000 ²
State spending per 3-year-old	Not available
State spending per 4-year-old	Not available



* Data are not available.

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

Data are for the '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Programs using basic education funding must operate at least 2.5 hours per day, but there is no maximum number of hours per day that a program may operate. Programs must operate at least 180 days per year.

² In fiscal year 2003, the state provided \$2,000,000 in federal TANF funds to extend the Head Start day, but data on the number of children served are not available. For 2003–2004, the state has allocated \$15,000,000 for Head Start programs so they can offer extended-day services as well as serve additional children.

³ Comprehensive program standards were developed and offered to school districts as guidance in designing Pre-K programs under the state's new Education Accountability Block Grant.

⁴ Assistant teachers are not required in classrooms.

⁵ Districts design and manage their own support services, but there is no program-wide requirement.

⁶ For fiscal year 2003, money was available through the basic education formula to support prekindergarten programs, but the specific amount used for this purpose is not available.