

Puerto Rico

NO PROGRAM

Operating as a single school district, Puerto Rico does not formally support a state-funded pre-kindergarten program as defined in this report; however, the territory supports several early learning initiatives.

Education in Puerto Rico consists of seven levels. Level 1 is optional nursery school for children under age 4 which is comprised of Early Head Start, Head Start, and pre-kindergarten programs. Level 2 compulsory preschool, commonly known as kindergarten, is mandatory for 5-year-olds. The Department of Education of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Education Council oversee elementary and secondary public education, monitor academic standards, and issue licenses to educational institutions. Programs for preschool-age children are administered by the Administration for Integral Child Care and Development (ACUDEN), with the Department of Education having authority over early childhood special education.

ACUDEN is the administrative agency supporting Puerto Rico's 16-member Early Childhood Advisory Board (ECAB), which has representation from agencies responsible for education, child care, higher education, Head Start, and other constituent groups. ECAB developed Unidos por la Niñez Temprana (United for Early Childhood), Puerto Rico's state plan for services to children from birth through 5 years. In collaboration with the Department of Education, the ECAB developed and promoted the use of the Early Learning Guidelines by all early learning programs. Supervisors, directors, and teachers from a variety of early learning programs received training in implementing standards.

ACUDEN also partnered with the University of Puerto Rico and other government agencies to create and validate a 5-level QRIS instrument to measure the quality of service in centers for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Puerto Rico's quality identification symbol is the Pasito meaning "baby step," with five Pasitos identifying a high-quality center.

Puerto Rico submitted an ultimately unsuccessful application for competitive federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge funding in 2011.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
No Program	

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

POLICIES TO SUPPORT	
DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS	WORKFORCE
No Program	

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	0
School districts that offer state program	NA
Income requirement	NA
Hours of operation	NA
Operating schedule.....	NA
Special education enrollment.....	
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	33,052
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

TOTAL
BENCHMARKS
MET

No
Program

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$0
Local match required?	NA
State spending per child enrolled	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$0

* 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 2014-2015 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 '14-'15 school year, unless otherwise noted.

