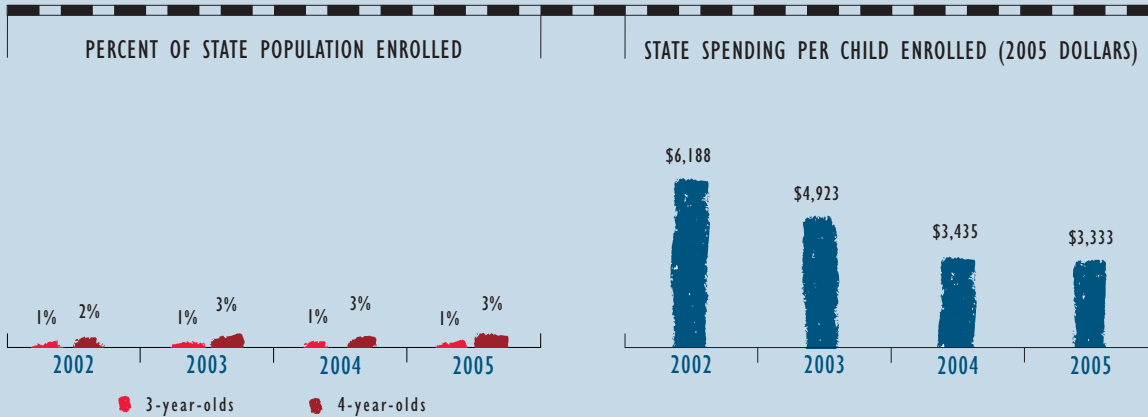


Tennessee



In 1998, Tennessee began funding the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Pilot Project. Direct funds from the state are distributed through competitive grants to public schools, Head Start centers, private child care providers, institutes of higher education, and public housing authorities. Highest priority for enrollment is given to 3- and 4-year-olds with family incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Children are also eligible if they are at risk for abuse or neglect, in state custody, or have Individualized Education Plans where community placement is the least restrictive environment.

During the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years, the program relied significantly on federal TANF funds to supplement state funding. TANF funds were eliminated beginning with the 2003–2004 school year, resulting in a loss of \$30,000 per classroom despite an increase in state funds. This led to reductions in numbers of classrooms and children served.

In 2004, Tennessee began a state lottery that primarily funds college scholarships, although excess funding may be used for early childhood programs. In May 2005, \$25 million in excess lottery funds were allocated to the Department of Education through the Voluntary Pre-K Initiative. These funds will be used to develop new Pre-K programs for at-risk 4-year-olds and will be distributed exclusively to public schools, which may then subcontract with other agencies to offer services. By the beginning of the 2005–2006 school year, funds sufficient to serve 6,000 additional children had been awarded. New programs received an average of \$75,000 per classroom of 20 children, with a required local match. However, existing ECE pilot programs continue to be funded at \$65,000, with no required local match.

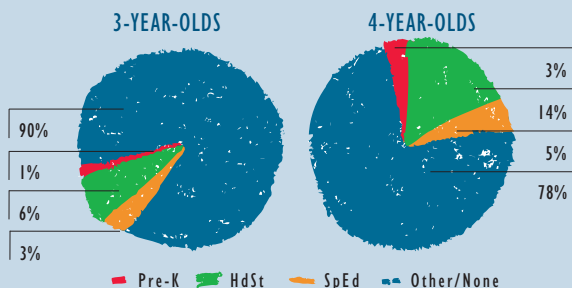
The state has recently adopted the Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards, which are designed for use across all settings where care is provided for young children.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	3,000 ¹
School districts that offer state program	42%
Income requirement	185% FPL ²
Hours of operation	5.5 hours/day + naptime, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	5,912
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	15,498
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



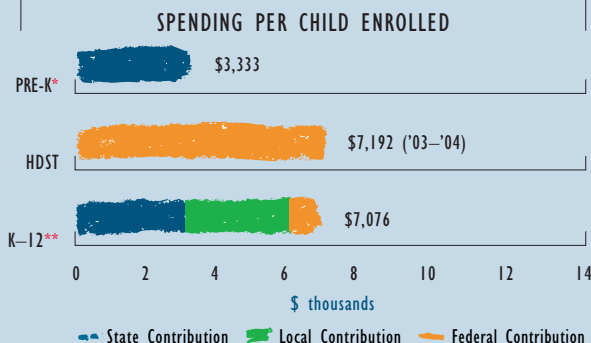
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive ³	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Teacher license with Pre-K endorsement	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	18 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3-year-olds - 16		
	4-year-olds - 20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3-year-olds - 1:8		
	4-year-olds - 1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Health; and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Breakfast, lunch, and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$10,000,000
Local match required?	No ⁵
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,333
State spending per 3-year-old	\$22
State spending per 4-year-old	\$107



* 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 '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ This enrollment figure is an estimate.

² Children who meet the income criteria receive highest priority for enrollment.

³ The state's first set of early learning standards, Tennessee's Early Learning Developmental Standards, were adopted in 2004.

⁴ A requirement for all children to have a vision and hearing screen was added to the Scope of Services for the 2005-2006 school year; in prior years, screening and referral requirements for vision and hearing were determined locally. Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities, and transition to Pre-K and kindergarten activities.

⁵ As of the 2005-2006 school year, new programs will be required to provide a local match.