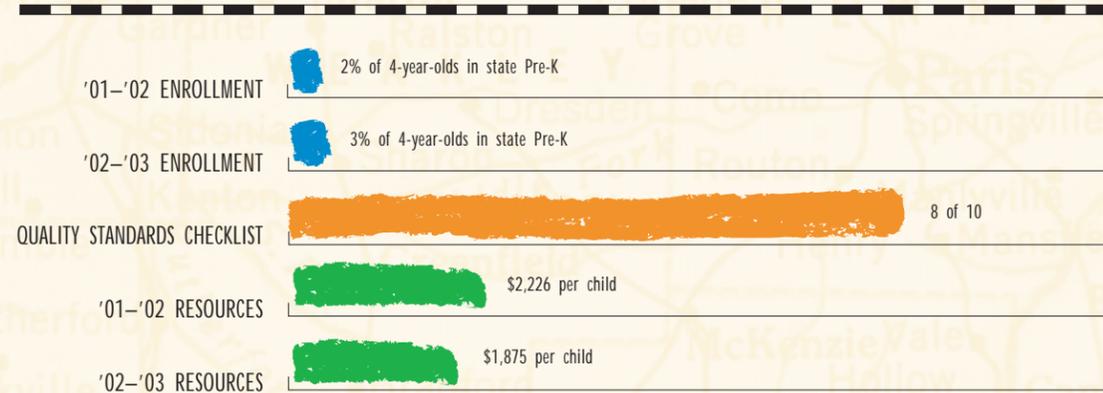


# Tennessee



Tennessee began funding the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Pilot Project in 1998. The legislation that established this program makes an explicit connection between the need to serve low-income 3- and 4-year olds, and the need to care for the preschool-age children of families enrolled in the state's welfare program. First priority goes to low-income families, and significant federal funds supplemented the \$6 million state investment in prekindergarten in the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years. Public schools, Head Start, institutes of higher education, and not-for-profit child care programs are all eligible to receive direct funding to provide services through this program, and ECE funds are distributed through a competitive process. Some services are delivered through partnerships between agencies. In 2002-2003, the numbers of 3- and 4-year-olds in the ECE program were estimated at 800 and 2,400, respectively.

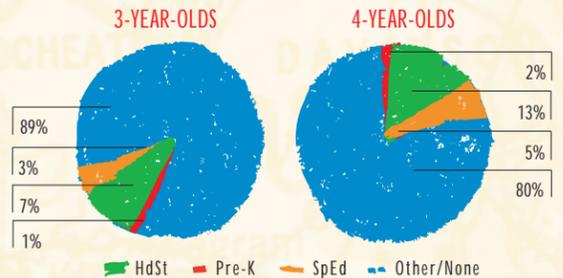
During the 2004 fiscal year, there have been significant cutbacks in funds (totaling approximately 34 percent) for the ECE program. These cutbacks are expected to result in reductions in enrollment. Quality standards, including teacher-student ratios, teacher qualifications, and requirements for a full-day program, remain in place.



## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	2,696
School districts that offer state program	38%
Income requirement	None <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation	Full-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	5,295
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	15,652
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

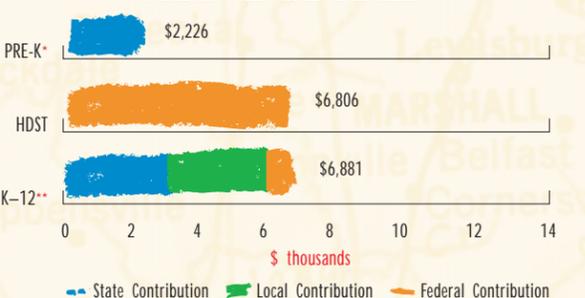
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Teacher license with endorsement in Pre-K	Specializing in EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	CDA	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	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 requirements	Health <sup>2</sup>	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	2 parent conferences	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	Lunch and snack <sup>3</sup>	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$6,000,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,226
State spending per 3-year-old	\$25
State spending per 4-year-old	\$51

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



\* 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 '01-'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Children eligible for free or reduced-price lunch are given priority for enrollment, but there is no specific income requirement.

<sup>2</sup> Screening and referral requirements for vision and hearing are determined locally.

<sup>3</sup> Programs that offer extended-day service must provide breakfast, lunch, and two snacks. Approximately half of the ECE programs operate on an extended-day schedule.