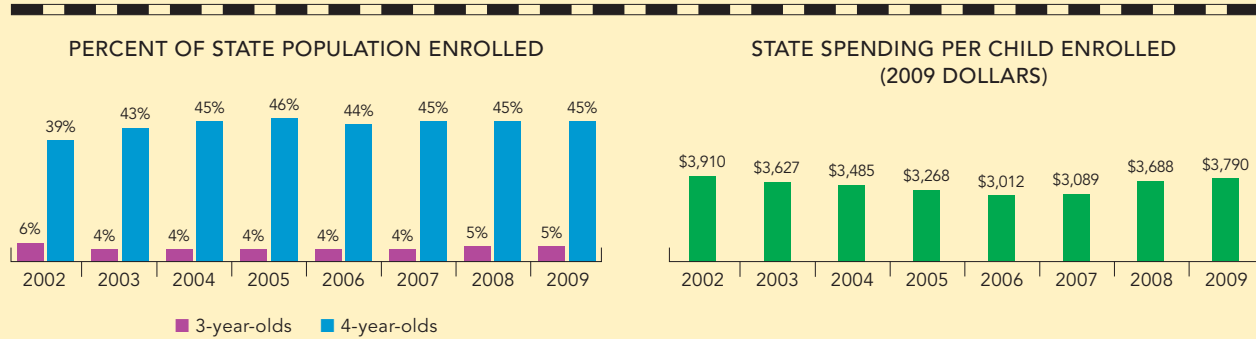


# Texas



The Texas Public School Prekindergarten initiative was launched in the 1985-1986 program year, with the purpose of providing half-day preschool education services for at-risk 4-year-olds. School districts that serve 15 or more eligible 4-year-olds are required to offer the initiative. Eligibility is based on the presence of risk factors, which include free or reduced-price lunch eligibility, limited English proficiency, homelessness or unstable housing, foster care participation, or parents who are on active military duty or who have been injured or killed on duty. Children not otherwise eligible may enroll at a district's discretion if their parents pay tuition. School districts may also offer the program to 3-year-olds using additional state and district funds. Enrollment has steadily increased over the past several years, with more than 200,000 children served in the 2008-2009 program year.

Texas Public School Prekindergarten is part of the K-12 system through the Foundation School Program and is supported by state and local funds. Funding is distributed directly to school districts, but districts are encouraged to provide preschool services through Head Start or private child care centers. While the Foundation School Program only offers funding to support half-day services, programs can apply for full-day funding through a competitive grant from the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program, which typically prioritizes school districts with low third grade reading scores.

More than 59,000 preschool children and their teachers in 184 school districts participated in the Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) in the 2008-2009 program year. TEEM, which is administered through the State Center for Early Childhood Development, encourages Head Start agencies, private child care centers, and public schools to coordinate services and share resources. TEEM offers a grant to preschool education programs that serve at least 75 percent low-income students and use a research-based pre-reading instructional program.

The Texas Education Code amended its reporting requirements in the 2007-2008 school year for the purposes of the Texas School Readiness Certification System. This system is a quality rating system designed to improve the academic achievement of preschoolers in a variety of settings, including public preschool programs, Head Start agencies, and private for-profit and nonprofit child care centers.

Beginning in September 2009, a restructured Prekindergarten Early Start (PKES) Grant will provide funds to eligible school districts and charter schools to prepare preschoolers to enter kindergarten on or above grade level. This grant program will serve thousands of additional preschool students and provide enhanced quality to programs. Also, revised Texas Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines were distributed in 2008 and incorporated into the Proclamation 2011 for Instructional Materials. The state will provide new instructional materials that address the revised guidelines beginning in the 2011-2012 program year.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
7	13

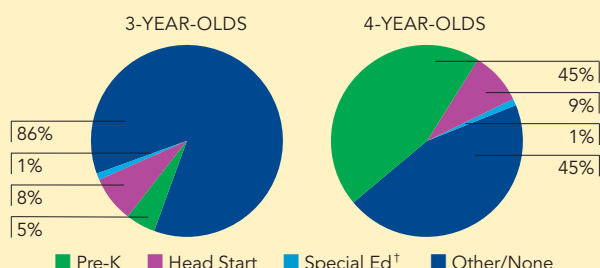
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
20	25

# TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	200,529
School districts that offer state program .....	82%
Income requirement .....	185% FPL <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation .....	3 hours/day, 5 days/week <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment .....	21,135
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	65,838
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	0

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



<sup>†</sup> 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	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	Generalist (EC–Grade 4) Teaching Certificate <sup>3</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	150 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	No limit <sup>4</sup>		
4-year-olds .....	No limit <sup>4</sup>		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	No limit		
4-year-olds .....	No limit		
Screening/referral and support services .....	Determined locally <sup>5</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Depend on length of program day <sup>6</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	None	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

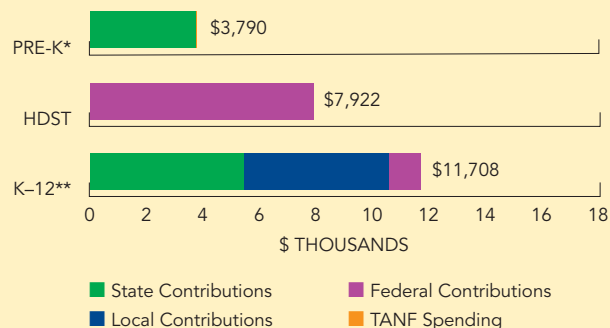
**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

4

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$760,059,287 <sup>7</sup>
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$3,790
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$3,790

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 '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> During the 2008-2009 program year, 74 percent of children enrolled qualified based on income. Children may also qualify if they are homeless or have unstable housing, have a history of foster care, are eligible for special education services, are eligible for TANF or other public assistance, have a parent on active military duty or who was injured or killed on active duty, or have non-English speaking family members.

<sup>2</sup> School districts that receive Prekindergarten Expansion Grant funding are required to offer 6 hours of services per day. Foundation funding covers half-day services only.

<sup>3</sup> The Generalist Teaching Certificate was extended to sixth grade in May 2009. The Generalist EC-4 credential will not be administered after August 2010. Texas standards no longer specify a number of semester hours in ECE.

<sup>4</sup> Prekindergarten classes no larger than 15 (for 3-year-olds) or 18 (for 4-year-olds) are preferred but not required.

<sup>5</sup> Vision, hearing, health, developmental, and dental screenings and referrals are determined locally. Some support services are required, but specific services are determined locally. The number of annual parent conferences or home visits is also determined locally.

<sup>6</sup> School districts are not required to serve meals to prekindergarten students. However, most school districts do serve either breakfast or lunch, and some offer both meals. All districts offering full-day programs provide lunch.

<sup>7</sup> This figure includes TANF maintenance of effort (MOE) funds.