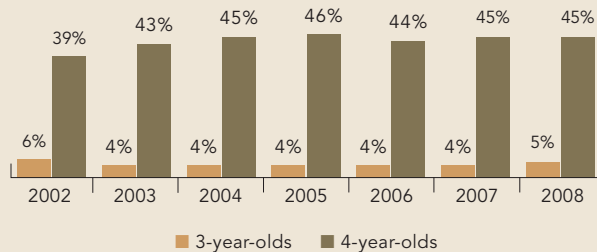
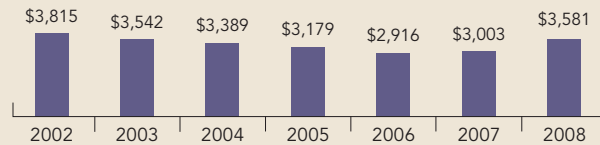


Texas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2008 DOLLARS)



In the 1985-1986 school year, the Texas Public School Prekindergarten initiative began providing half-day prekindergarten to at-risk 4-year-old children. At-risk eligibility factors include eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch, homelessness, limited English proficiency, and having parents who are on active military duty or have been injured or killed on duty. Children who are or were in foster care are also eligible for the program as of the 2007-2008 school year. Children who do not meet eligibility requirements may still participate in the program if their families choose to pay tuition and if districts choose to serve ineligible children. Any district that serves 15 or more eligible 4-year-old children is required to offer the Texas Public School Prekindergarten program. With any additional state and district funds, programs can also serve 3-year-olds. Over the past several years, enrollment in the program has steadily increased with more than 190,000 children being served in the 2007-2008 school year.

Using the Foundation School Program, Texas Public School Prekindergarten is supported by state and local funds and is part of the K-12 system. While districts are encouraged to offer services through Head Start programs or private child care centers, funding is distributed directly to school districts. The Foundation School Program provides funding for half-day services only. However, programs can apply for funding for full-day services from the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program, which awards competitive grants annually. Typically, school districts with low third grade reading scores have priority for receiving the grants.

In the 2007-2008 school year, more than 43,000 preschool children and their teachers in 170 school districts participated in the Texas Early Education Model (TEEM). TEEM encourages public schools, child care centers, and Head Start programs to coordinate services and share resources. The program is administered through the State Center for Early Childhood Development and is grant-funded to programs that use a research-based pre-reading instructional program and serve at least 75 percent low-income students.

Beginning in 2007-2008, the Texas Education Code amended its reporting requirements for purposes of the Texas School Readiness Certification System, which is a quality rating system designed to improve the academic achievement of prekindergarten students through a diverse delivery system. In addition, in the spring of 2008, the Texas Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines were revised and were distributed in the fall of 2008. The guidelines were incorporated into Proclamation 2111 for Instructional Materials and will be adopted by the state in 2010 and provided to prekindergarten classrooms beginning in the 2011-2012 school year.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
5	10

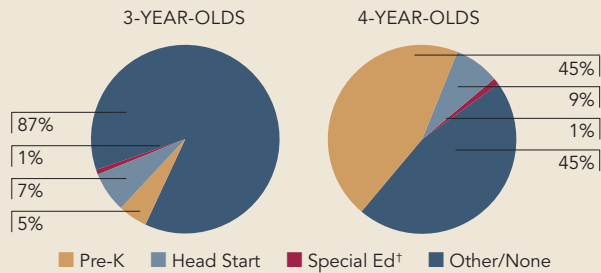
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
21	27

TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	193,869
School districts that offer state program	82%
Income requirement	185% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	3 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	20,373
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	65,618
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

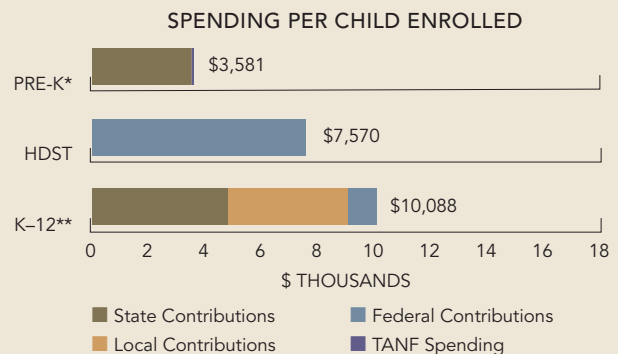
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Generalist (EC-Grade 4) Teaching Certificate ³	Specializing 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 ⁴		
4-year-olds	No limit ⁴		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit		
4-year-olds	No limit		
Screening/referral	Determined locally ⁵	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁶	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	None	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

4

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$694,211,195 ⁷
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,581
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,581



* 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 '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ During the 2007-2008 program year, 73 percent of children enrolled qualified based on income. Children may also qualify if they are homeless, have a history of foster care, have a parent on active military duty, or have non-English speaking family members.

² School districts that receive Prekindergarten Expansion Grant funding are required to offer 6 hours of services per day.

³ The Generalist Teaching Certificate covers early childhood through fourth grade. The pedagogy is based on developmental levels for children and appropriate teaching methods for each grade level. Texas standards no longer specify a number of semester hours in early childhood education.

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

⁵ Vision, hearing, health, developmental, and dental screening 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ State funding under the Foundation School Program, distributed on the basis of aggregated average daily attendance, totaled \$610,528,200. The Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program contributed an additional \$74,502,995 and TANF MOE money is included in the total amount.