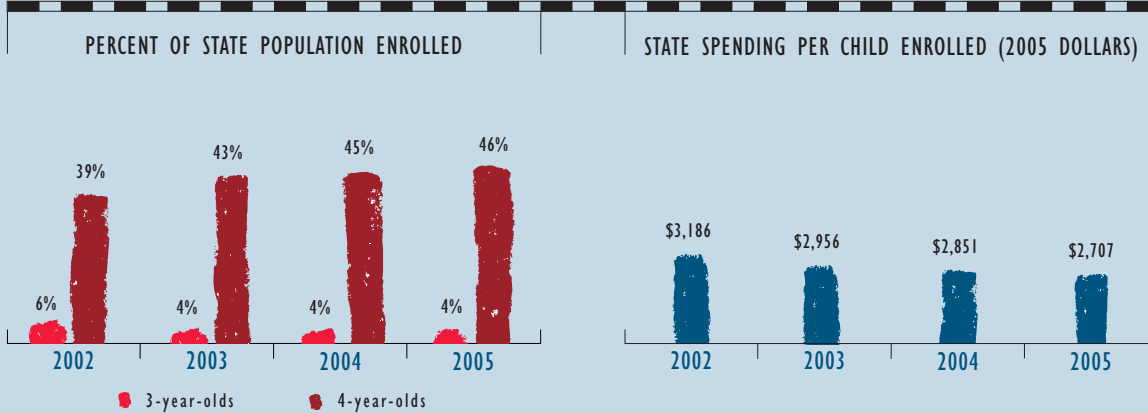


Texas



The Public School Prekindergarten initiative was established in 1984 and provides half-day preschool primarily for at-risk 4-year-olds. The program has the largest total enrollment of any state-funded preschool initiative in the country and continues to serve more children each year. Children qualify for the program if they are homeless, eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, or unable to speak and understand the English language. The state requires all districts with 15 or more eligible children who are at least 4 years old to offer Public School Prekindergarten. As part of the K–12 system, programs are supported through the Foundation School Program, which includes both state and local funds. Individual school districts are responsible for operating prekindergarten programs but are encouraged to consider using existing Head Start or local child care providers as program sites. Although not required, full-day programs and access for 3-year-olds are provided in some locations with the use of additional district and state funding. Services for children who do not meet eligibility criteria are largely paid for by parent tuition.

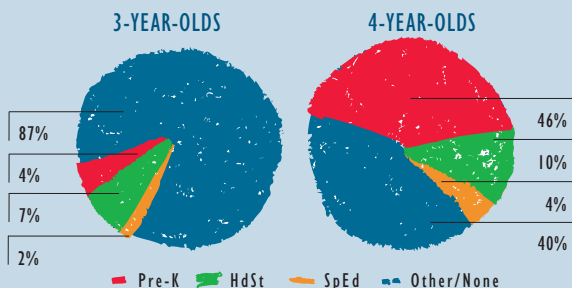
Beginning with the 1999–2000 school year, the state Legislature appropriated \$100 million per year to make grants available to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to expand prekindergarten programs to full day. Funding remained level for the 2001–2002 and 2002–2003 school years but was reduced to \$92.5 million per year for the 2003–2004 and 2004–2005 school years. These annual expansion grants are awarded on a competitive basis, giving priority to districts with low third-grade reading scores.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	176,547
School districts that offer state program	76%
Income requirement	185% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	3 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	22,182
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	61,890
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



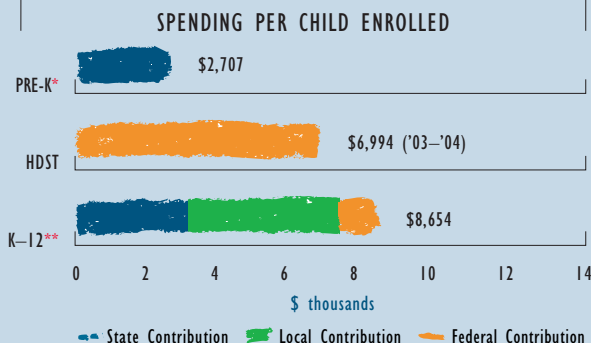
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Generalist Teaching Certificate ³	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD/GED	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	150 clock hours/5 years ⁴	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit ⁵		
4-year-olds	No limit ⁵		
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	Vision, hearing; and support services ⁶	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day ⁷	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	None	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$478,000,000 ⁸
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,707
State spending per 3-year-old	\$110
State spending per 4-year-old	\$1,245



* 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.

- Children may also qualify if they are homeless or unable to speak and comprehend the English language. During the 2003-2004 program year, 72% of the children enrolled qualified based on income.
- Districts that receive Prekindergarten Expansion Grant funding are required to offer 6 hours of services per day. Foundation School Program funding covers half-day services only.
- The certification requirement for teachers changed in 2002 from endorsement in EC or K to the Generalist (EC-Grade 4) Teaching Certificate. The state no longer issues an Early Childhood or Kindergarten Endorsement. Prekindergarten teachers are required to pass the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TexES) for the Generalist Teaching Certification.
- All classroom teachers holding a Standard Certificate with an effective date of September 1, 1999 or later must meet this requirement.
- Class size is mandated for grades K-4 only. Prekindergarten classes no larger than 15 (3-year-olds) and 18 (4-year-olds) are preferred but not required.
- Some support services are required, but specific services are determined locally. The number of annual parent conferences or home visits is determined locally.
- 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.
- This figure is an estimate and includes funding from expansion grants provided by the state to support full-day services.