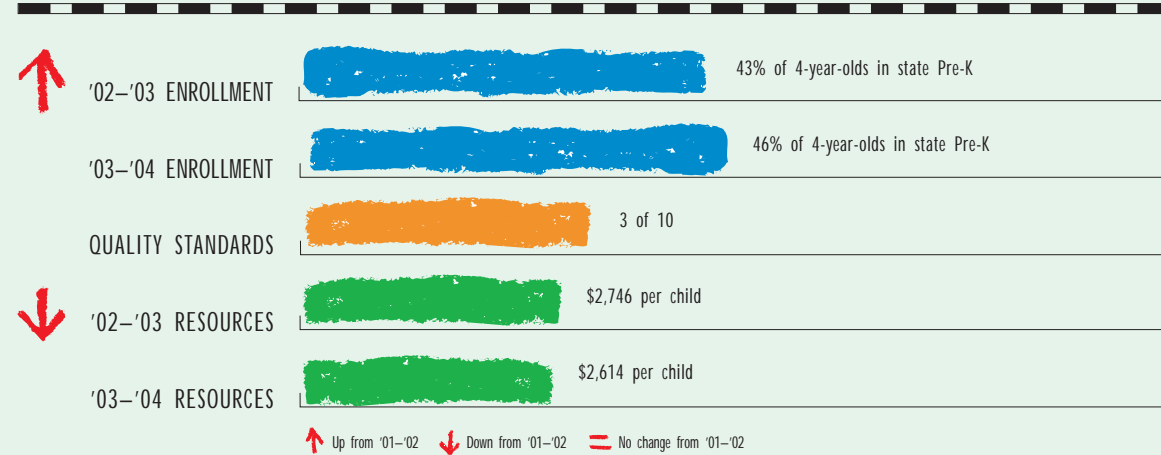


# Texas



Established in 1984, Texas' Public School Prekindergarten initiative provides half-day preschool primarily for 4-year-olds from low-income families. Children qualify for the program if they are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, unable to speak and understand the English language, or homeless. Public School Prekindergarten programs are part of the K-12 system, and are thus supported by a combination of 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. All districts with 15 or more eligible children who are at least 4 years old are required to offer the prekindergarten program. 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.

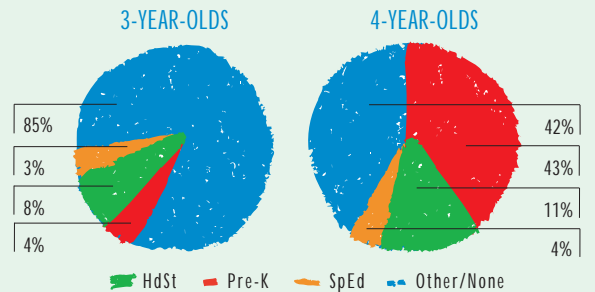
Annual grants that have allowed some districts to provide full-day services have been reduced by the Legislature for the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 school years from \$100 million to \$92.5 million. These expansion grants are awarded on a competitive basis, with priority going to districts with low third-grade reading scores. Including these grants, the Public School Prekindergarten Program was funded with a total of \$435,500,000 during the 2003-2004 school year, enrolling 14,283 3-year-olds and 151,620 4-year-olds.



## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	157,498
School districts that offer state program	74%
Income requirement	Free or reduced-price lunch eligible <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation	Half-day, full-week <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule	Academic year <sup>3</sup>
Special education enrollment	20,046
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	63,949
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	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training req.	Endorsement in EC or K <sup>4</sup>	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	Determined locally	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	Not specified	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit <sup>5</sup>		
4-year-olds	No limit <sup>5</sup>		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit <sup>5</sup>		
4-year-olds	No limit <sup>5</sup>		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision and hearing	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	Support services <sup>6</sup>	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	Varies <sup>7</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

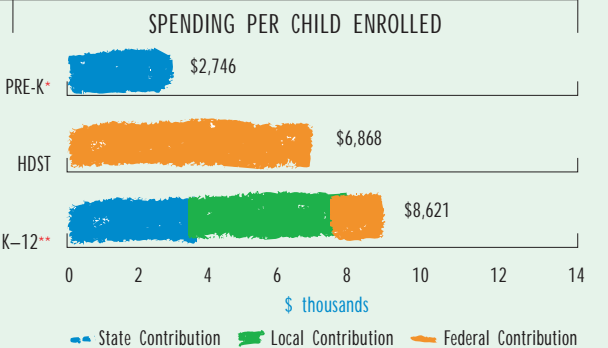
TOTAL:

# 3

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## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$432,436,912 <sup>8</sup>
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,746
State spending per 3-year-old	\$112
State spending per 4-year-old	\$1,192



\* 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 '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Children may also qualify if they are homeless or are unable to speak or comprehend the English language. During 2002-2003, 72% of attendees were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.  
<sup>2</sup> Public School Prekindergarten funds can only be used to support a 3-hour day, but districts can provide 6-hour-a-day programs using Prekindergarten Expansion Grant funds, tuition, local revenue, or other funds.  
<sup>3</sup> The prekindergarten program follows an academic year schedule. In addition, each school district that is required to offer a bilingual education or special language program must offer a voluntary program for children of limited English proficiency who will be eligible for admission to kindergarten or the first grade at the beginning of the next school year.  
<sup>4</sup> Teachers assigned to a bilingual education program must be appropriately certified for bilingual education. Teachers assigned to an English as a Second Language or other special language program must also be appropriately certified.  
<sup>5</sup> There is no class size or staff-child ratio requirement for prekindergarten. Most classes do not exceed 18 children. A teacher and an aide are present in most classrooms, although the aide is optional.  
<sup>6</sup> Some support services are required, but specific services are determined locally.  
<sup>7</sup> Most school districts serve either breakfast or lunch and some serve both meals. School districts that offer a full-day program always provide lunch and often provide breakfast.  
<sup>8</sup> This figure includes \$100 million in expansion grants provided by the state to support full-day services.