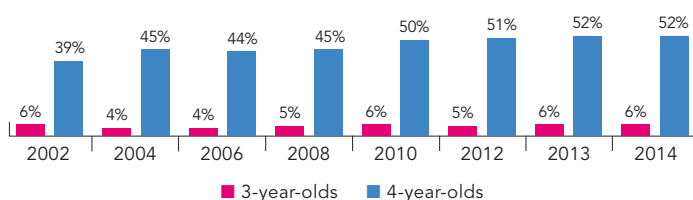
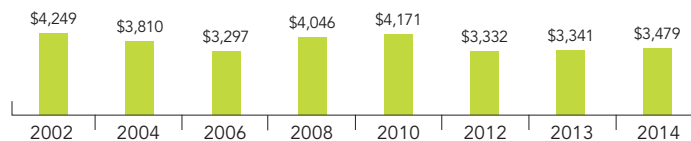


Texas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED*
(2014 DOLLARS)



The Texas Public School Prekindergarten initiative began offering half-day preschool services to at-risk 4-year-olds in 1985. Providing the program is mandatory for school districts with 15 or more eligible 4-year-olds, and optional for districts identified with 15 or more eligible children who are at least 3 years old. Eligibility is governed by risk factors including: homelessness, qualifying for a free or reduced-price lunch (185 percent of FPL), inability to speak or comprehend the English language, participation in foster care, or a parent on active military duty who has been injured or killed on active duty. Districts can choose to enroll non-eligible students, but parents must pay tuition. Funds are distributed directly to school districts, which are encouraged to collaborate with licensed child care centers and Head Start programs to provide preschool services. Overseen by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Prekindergarten program is financed through both state and local funds. Funding for half-day services is based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA), and is provided through the Foundation School Program, as part of the K-12 funding system. For the 2014-2015 biennium, an additional \$30 million was appropriated for supplemental prekindergarten funding for students meeting the eligibility criteria.

The Early Childhood Data System (ECDS) formerly known as the Kindergarten Readiness System (KRS) is a new state reporting feature in the Texas Student Data System (TSDS). The ECDS will be used to collect early childhood data to inform school districts, communities, and early childhood programs about the effectiveness of prekindergarten programs in preparing children for success in kindergarten. ECDS will be introduced in a two-phased approach. In phase one, required kindergarten data will be submitted; in phase two, voluntary prekindergarten data will be submitted.

Since 2008, the Texas Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines have been applied statewide. Training on the guidelines is provided by twenty Regional Education Service Centers (ESCs), which also provide professional development and technical assistance to early childhood education providers within that area. Additional early childhood services were previously provided through the Prekindergarten Early Start Grant (previously the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program) but were defunded in the 2011-2012 school year.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
9	13

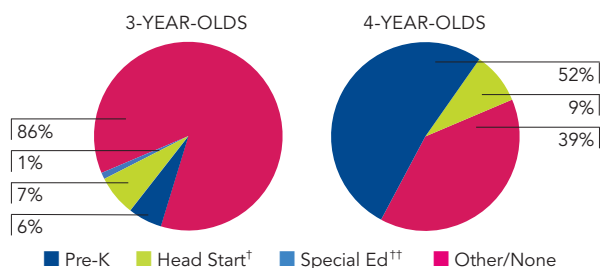
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
29	33

TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	226,226
School districts that offer state program	85%
Income requirement	185% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	3 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	23,117
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	65,211
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state 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 (public); None (nonpublic) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Generalist, bilingual, ESL, Special Education (EC-6) (public)	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD or equivalent (public)	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 ³		
4-year-olds	No limit ³		
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, immunizations ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depends on length of program day ⁵	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	None	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

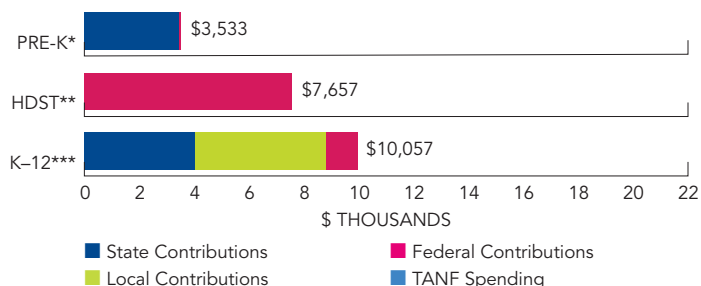
2

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$787,147,078
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,479
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,533

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
 ** Head Start per-child spending for the 2013-2014 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.
 *** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '13-'14 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Children may also qualify if they are homeless or have unstable housing, have a history of foster care, 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.
² Credentials for nonpublic school teachers are overseen by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission and vary, based on school accreditation. There is no set state requirement for degrees and certifications in nonpublic schools. Based on further clarification, this policy does not meet NIEER's benchmark requirement.

³ Prekindergarten classes no larger than 15 (for 3-year-olds) or 18 (for 4-year-olds) with a staff-child ratio of 1:22 are preferred but not required.
⁴ Some support services are required, but specific services are determined locally.
⁵ 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 school-day programs provide lunch.