Virginia

'02–'03 ENROLLMENT
 6% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K

'03–'04 ENROLLMENT
 6% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K

QUALITY STANDARDS
5 of 10

'02–'03 RESOURCES
$3,090 per child

'03–'04 RESOURCES
$3,102 per child

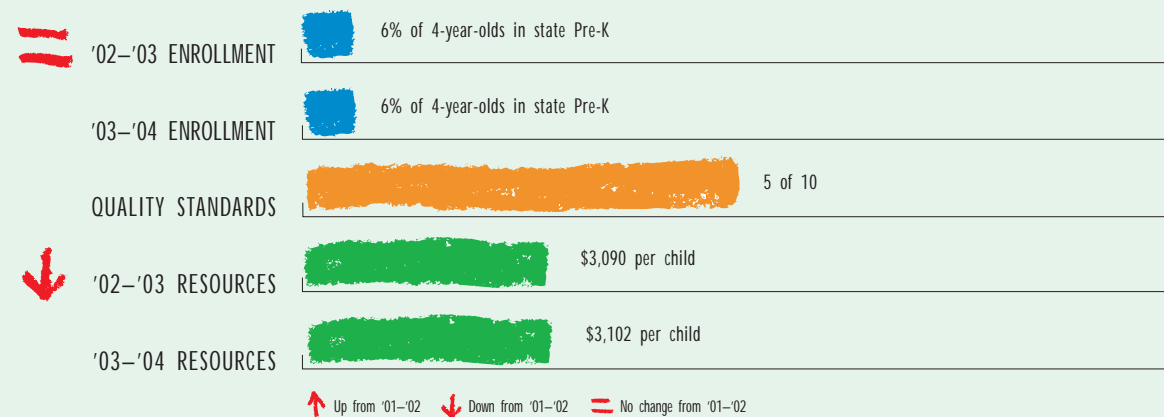↑ Up from '01–'02   ↓ Down from '01–'02   ═ No change from '01–'02

Established in 1995, the Virginia Preschool Initiative was developed to meet the needs of 4-year-old children not being served by existing preschool education programs. Public schools receive allocations sufficient to fund services for 60 percent of the at-risk 4-year-olds in a community who are not being served by federal programs, including Head Start and Title I. Public schools may subcontract with Head Start or YMCA programs to operate prekindergarten classes. Although all children who participate must be at risk, the specific risk factors used to determine eligibility are chosen and identified at the local level. Some risk factors that are frequently used include poverty, homelessness, parents who have dropped out of school or who have limited education, family underemployment or incarceration, and limited English proficiency.

The Virginia Preschool Initiative has a required local match, based on a composite index that reflects local districts' abilities to contribute additional funds. In general, this index is designed to promote equity across communities, such that wealthy communities are required to contribute more funds than less wealthy communities.

The 2002–2003 school year saw the publication of Virginia's Foundation Blocks for early literacy and mathematics, which have become a required a part of the curriculum.

Major program changes were approved in a special session of the state General Assembly in 2004. Districts will be given the opportunity to choose whether to provide half-day or full-day services; currently, full-day programs are mandated. In addition, the state will make funding available for districts to serve 90 percent of at-risk 4-year-olds not already being served by Head Start.

The Virginia Preschool Initiative served 5,895 4-year-olds in 2003–2004 and received $18,285,745 in state funding.

ACCESS RANKING–4s	ACCESS RANKING–3s	RESOURCES RANKING
24	None Served	20

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	5,886
School districts that offer state program	55%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Full-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,710
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	11,682
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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

3-YEAR-OLDS: 92%, 3%, 5%
4-YEAR-OLDS: 6%, 8%, 6%, 80%

■ HdSt   ■ Pre-K   ■ SpEd   ■ Other/None
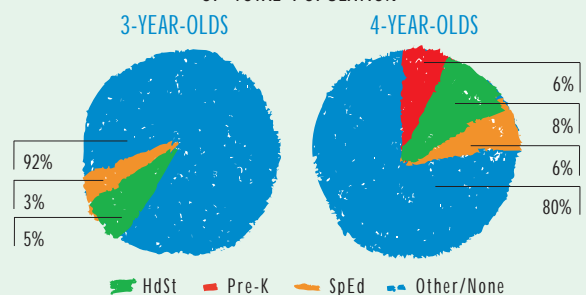
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

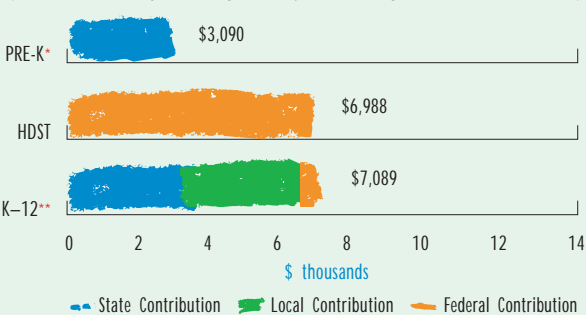| POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Not comprehensive	Comprehensive	☐
Teacher degree requirement	BA (public), None (nonpublic) [1]	BA	☐
Teacher specialized training requirement	Certification in Pre-K–3 or –6 (public), None (nonpublic) [1]	Specializing in Pre-K	☐
Assistant teacher degree requirement	HSD or GED	CDA or equivalent	☐
Teacher in-service requirement	Determined locally	At least 15 hours/year	☑
Maximum class size		20 or lower	☑
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	16		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	☑
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:8		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision, hearing, and health	Vision, hearing, and health	☑
Required support services	Support services [2]	At least 1 service	☑
Meal requirement	Lunch and snack	At least 1/day	☑

TOTAL: **5** of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	$18,189,075
Local match required?	Yes–based on composite index of local ability to pay [3]
State spending per child enrolled	$3,090
State spending per 3-year-old	$0
State spending per 4-year-old	$195

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PRE-K* $3,090
HDST $6,988
K–12** $7,089

$ thousands: 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14

▬ State Contribution   ■ Local Contribution   ■ Federal Contribution

* 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.

1 All staff must have some training in early childhood development. Minimum teacher qualifications depend on the location of the program: public school teachers must be certified, Head Start teachers must hold a CDA, and there is no specific degree requirement for teachers in child care settings.
2 Support services include parent involvement activities, health services for children, referral to social services, and transportation. The annual number of required parent conferences and/or home visits is determined locally.
3 In general, the composite index is designed so that counties with large low-income populations are required to contribute less of a local match than wealthier communities. The percentage of costs covered by matching funds varies by community, but more specific information could not be reported.