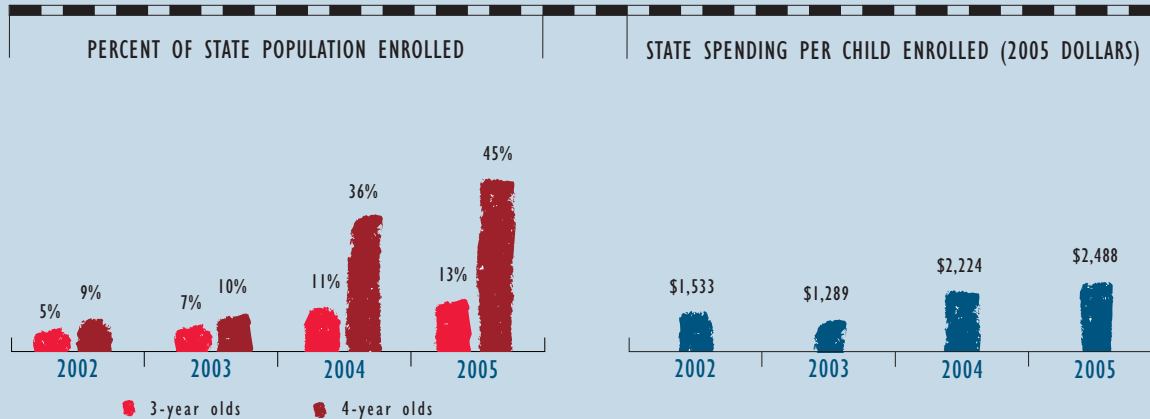


Vermont



Vermont’s Early Education Initiative (EEI) began in 1987 and provides grants to increase access to preschool programs for the state’s 3- and 4-year-old children at risk. Direct funding is distributed by the state to public schools, Parent-Child Centers, private child care programs, and Head Start. The state requires EEI programs to coordinate funds and services with other community resources. During 2003–2004, nearly half of the children served came from families with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Other risk factors related to program eligibility include exposure to violence, neglect or substance abuse, low parental education levels, social isolation, limited English proficiency, and developmental delay. State funding for EEI has remained level for the past 5 years, but because of inflation the value of grants received by programs has diminished. Some programs have thus reduced enrollment and intensity of services.

Since 2002–2003, the state has increased support for a second preschool initiative—Vermont Average Daily Membership-funded Prekindergarten. State education funds are distributed based on Average Daily Membership (ADM) counts, with 10 hours of weekly service generating one ADM per child (or 40 percent of full-day K-12 funding). ADM-funded programs are offered in public schools or in other facilities that are licensed by the state Department of Education.

All EEI programs are expected to reference the Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) in their curriculum. Promotion of the VELS and related professional development activities is part of an ongoing effort to bring early education to the forefront of state policy decisions.

In order to document the contributions Vermont makes to prekindergarten through its separate initiatives, we first present summary information reflecting the state’s overall commitment to prekindergarten. Enrollment and state spending for both the ADM and EEI initiatives are taken into account. Next, we present specific details about each initiative in the state. The third page of this profile focuses exclusively on the ADM program, while the final page focuses exclusively on the EEI program.

STATE OVERVIEW

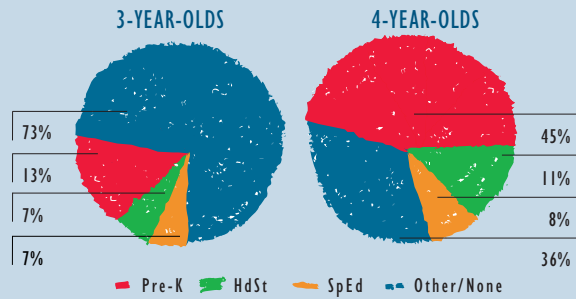
Total state program enrollment - - - - -	3,634
Total state spending - - - - -	\$9,040,024
State spending per child enrolled - - - - -	\$2,488
State spending per 3-year-old - - - - -	\$259
State spending per 4-year-old - - - - -	\$1,177

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

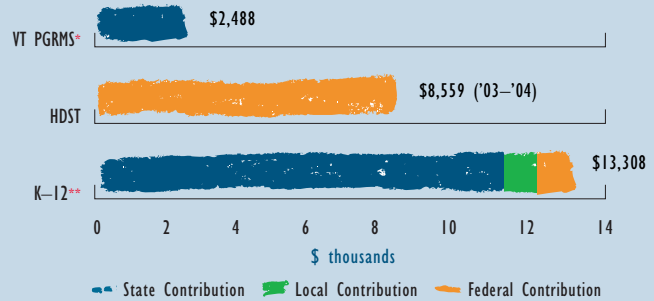
** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

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



SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



ACCESS RANKING—4s

4

ACCESS RANKING—3s

2

RESOURCES RANKING

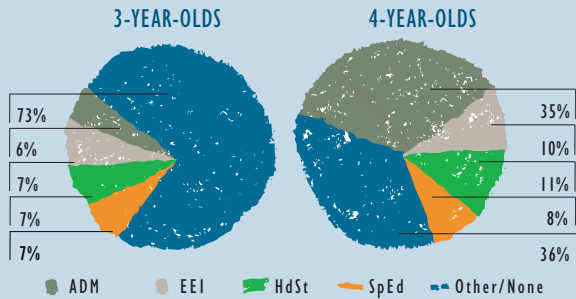
30

VERMONT AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP-FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	-----	2,545 ¹
School districts that offer state program	-----	43% (communities)
Income requirement	-----	None
Hours of operation	-----	Determined locally
Operating schedule	-----	Academic year ²
Special education enrollment	-----	958
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	-----	1,153
State-funded Head Start enrollment	-----	0

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



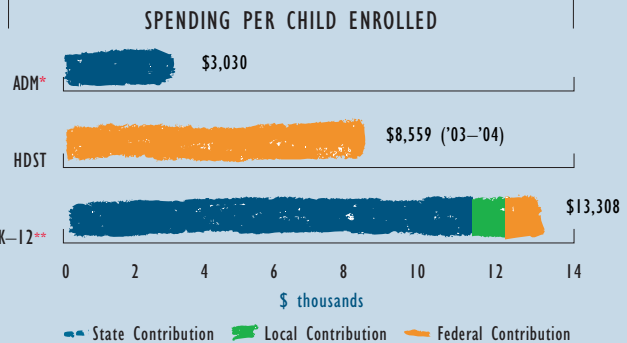
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	-----	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	-----	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	-----	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	-----	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	-----	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	-----		
4-year-olds	-----		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	-----		
4-year-olds	-----		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health;	Vision, hearing, health;	
and support services	and support services ³	and at least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	-----	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	-----	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	-----	\$7,711,200 ⁵
Local match required?	-----	No
State spending per child enrolled	-----	\$3,030
State spending per 3-year-old	-----	\$175 ⁶
State spending per 4-year-old	-----	\$1,054 ⁶



* 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.

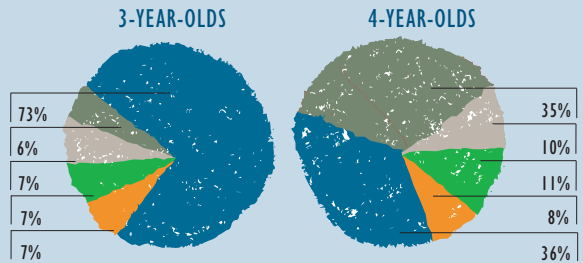
1 This figure is an estimate, and has been adjusted to reduce duplication of enrollment counts across the ADM and EEI programs.
 2 Although funding is based on the traditional school year calendar, tuition supports full year programs for some children.
 3 Support services include two annual home visits or parent conferences, health services for children, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.
 4 Programs operating fewer than 4 hours per day must offer a snack; programs operating for more than 4 hours per day must offer snack and lunch.
 5 This figure is an estimate based on a new funding formula that went into effect as of the 2004-2005 program year.
 6 The state did not break ADM enrollment into specific numbers of 3- and 4-year-olds. As a result, these calculations are estimates based on proportions of enrollees who were ages 3 or 4 in states that served 3-year-olds and provided age breakdowns for 2004-2005.

VERMONT EARLY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	-----	1,089
School districts that offer state program	-----	54% (towns)
Income requirement	-----	185% FPL ¹
Hours of operation	-----	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	-----	Determined locally ²
Special education enrollment	-----	958
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	-----	1,153
State-funded Head Start enrollment	-----	0

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



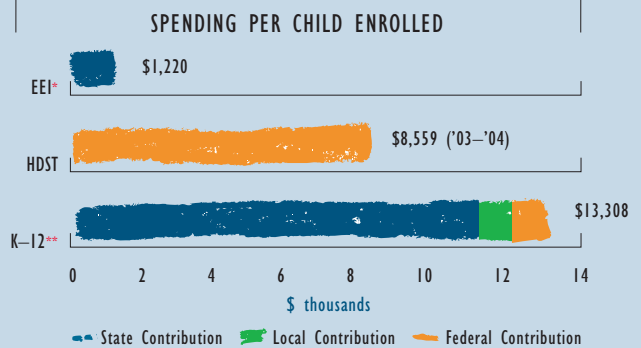
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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	--- License in EC or ECSE (public), Degree in ECE (nonpublic)	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	----- BA (public), Determined locally (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	----- 9 credit hours/7 years (public), 9 clock hours/year (nonpublic)	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	----- 16		
4-year-olds	----- 16		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	----- 1:8		
4-year-olds	----- 1:8		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health, and and support services ----- developmental; and support services ³	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	----- Depend on length of program day ⁴	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	----- Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	-----	\$1,328,824
Local match required?	-----	No
State spending per child enrolled	-----	\$1,220
State spending per 3-year-old	-----	\$84
State spending per 4-year-old	-----	\$123



* 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.

¹ Children may also qualify based on risk factors such as developmental delay, risk for abuse or neglect, limited English proficiency, exposure to violence or substance abuse, social isolation, or low educational attainment by parents. During 2003-2004, 45% of enrollees qualified based on income.

² Programs average 10.5 hours per week. Public schools and Head Start programs generally follow the academic year, while programs in child care centers usually operate throughout the calendar year.

³ District-wide screenings for all 3- to 5-year-olds are conducted, and referrals for services are provided to children whether or not they are EEI eligible. Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits for academic-year programs and three for year-round programs, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.

⁴ Programs operating for 3 hours must provide a snack, while programs operating for at least 4 hours must provide a meal plus a snack.