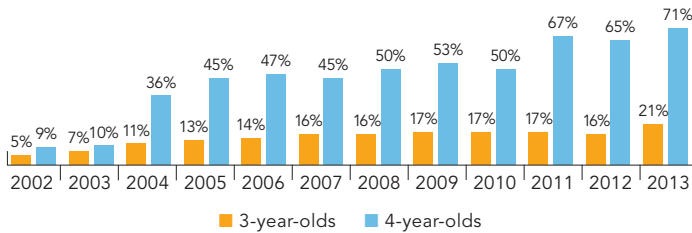
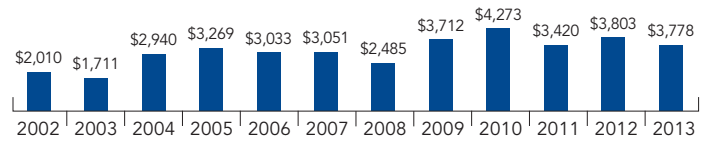


Vermont

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2013 DOLLARS)



The Vermont Early Education Initiative (EEI) was established in law in 1987 as an annual competitive grant program to finance early education opportunities for at-risk 3- to 5-year-olds. Eligible children must meet one of the following criteria: family income below 185 percent of the federal poverty level, a developmental delay, limited English proficiency, a history of mistreatment or neglect, or social isolation. EEI grant proposals must be from partnerships of at least one school district and one community early care and education program; either partner may be the grantee. Over the past few years, EEI financial support has remained relatively constant. EEI is not the state’s designed pre-K program; however, because EEI funds can be used to provide preschool education services to 3- and 4-year-olds, it is included as a program in this report.

Vermont established its designated preschool program in 2003. It allows school districts to subsidize prekindergarten education by including 3-to 5-year-olds in their school census. Initially called the Publicly Funded Prekindergarten using Average Daily Memberships (PFP-ADM), the program underwent significant changes in 2007, with the passage of Vermont Prekindergarten Education-Act 62. Before 2007 local education agencies could include 3- to 5-year-olds in their school census, but there were few policies for implementing services. Under Act 62, pre-K programs are supported through the state’s Education Fund in the same way K–12 education is funded. Child enrollment is voluntary, and districts are not required to provide the program, though roughly 80 percent of Vermont’s local education agencies (LEAs) are able to provide it through an arrangement of school-based programs and partnerships with private family-based or center-based providers, private preschools, and/or with Head Start programs. “Publicly funded prekindergarten education” is defined in Act 62 as 6 to 10 hours per week of preschool education services for children ages 3 to 5 and “full-time” pre-K is 10 hours per week during the school year. Public schools may contract with other preschool providers, including Head Start agencies and family child care homes for service provision, and private child care to provide pre-K. The state originally limited the number of pre-K children a district could count in its school census, but limitations were lifted in all towns effective in the 2011-2012 school year.

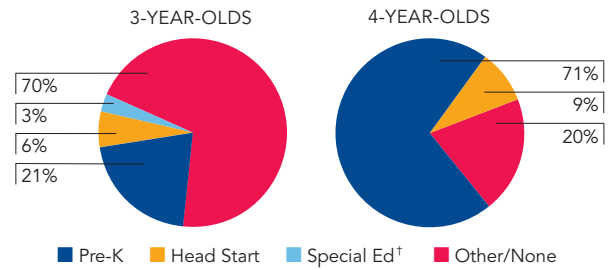
Since the 2008-2009 school year, Act 62 programs operating in nonpublic locations require one teacher per center to have a ECE or ECSE educator license, rather than requiring one such teacher in each preschool classroom. Most classrooms, however, do have a lead teacher with a BA and early childhood or early childhood special educator license, in both the public and private settings. Act 62 requires all pre-K programs, including those operated by public schools, to attain at least 4 out of 5 stars in Vermont’s Step Ahead Recognition Systems (STARS), Vermont’s quality rating system, or to hold NAEYC accreditation. Both EEI and Act 62 use Teaching Strategies GOLD to track child outcomes.

The first two pages of Vermont’s profile explain the state’s overall commitment and contribution to preschool education with enrollment and state spending data for both initiatives. The next two pages offer precise details about each of Vermont’s preschool initiatives, with the Vermont Prekindergarten Education-Act 62 program highlighted on the third page and the Vermont Early Education Initiative profiled on the fourth page.

STATE OVERVIEW

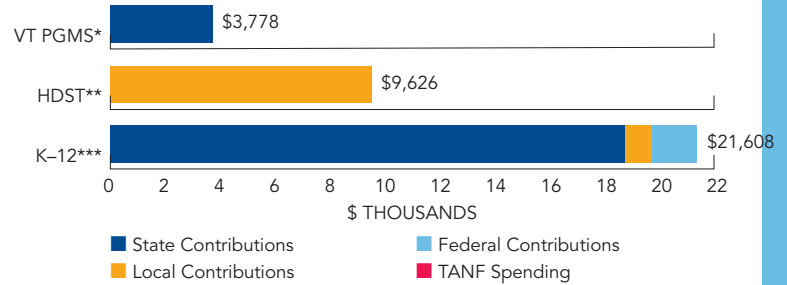
Total state program enrollment	5,948
Total state spending	\$22,469,844
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,778
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,778

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



† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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 2012-2013 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 '12-'13 school year, unless otherwise noted.

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS

3-YEAR-OLDS

4

2

RESOURCES RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING

ALL REPORTED SPENDING

22

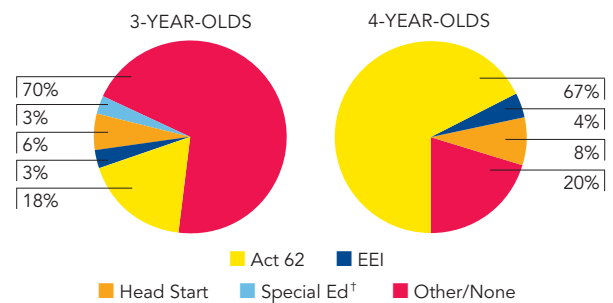
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VERMONT PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION - ACT 62

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	5,535
School districts that offer state program	88% (communities)
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	1,144
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	916
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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



† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded 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); Meets child care regulations (nonpublic) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	ECE, Limited ECE or ECSE endorsement ²	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA (public); HSD + CD course (nonpublic) ³	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	9 credit hours/7 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Determined locally; and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	No meals are required	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

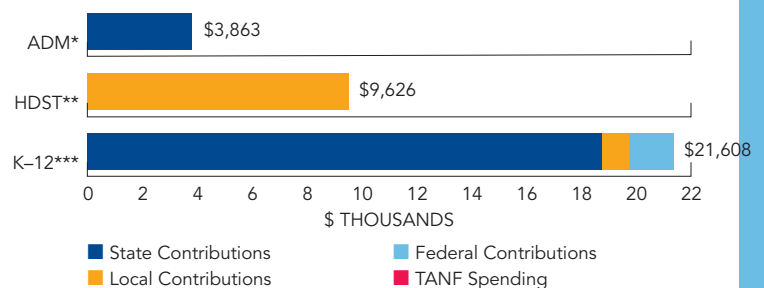
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$21,379,945
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,863
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,863

* 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 2012-2013 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 '12-'13 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Programs are funded to operate 6-10 hours per week. Most programs operate about 3 hours/day, 6-10 hours/week, 3-4 days/week for at least 35 weeks per year.
² Teachers in public settings must have a BA with an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) birth-grade 3 or Early Childhood Special Educator (ECSE) birth-age 5 certification. Nonpublic centers are only required to have one licensed teacher per center, rather than one per classroom. Lead teachers in nonpublic settings must meet child care requirements of an AA, CDA, or Child Care post-secondary certificate. Registered child care homes require only brief supervision by a licensed teacher. The majority of lead teachers possess a BA and are certified.

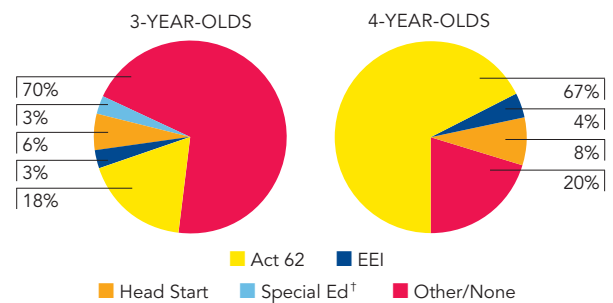
³ Assistant teachers must have an AA or equivalent and must meet "highly qualified" standards in public settings. In nonpublic settings assistant teachers need to have a high school diploma and a 30-hour course in child development. Other training is not specified in Act 62 legislation and depends on the type of pre-K provider teachers work for.
⁴ Screenings and referrals are determined locally. Support services include home visits or parent conferences, parent involvement activities, and transition to kindergarten activities. All other comprehensive services are determined locally.

VERMONT EARLY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,102 ¹
School districts that offer state program	57% ²
Income requirement	185% FPL ³
Hours of operation	Determined locally ⁴
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	1,144
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	916
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

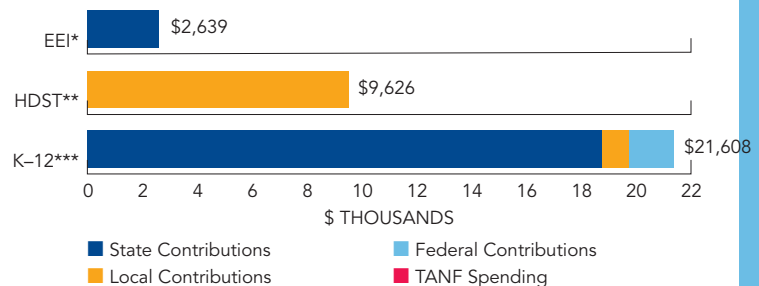
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?	TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET 4
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher degree	BA (public); Meets child care regulations (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher specialized training	ECE, Limited ECE, or ECSE (public); Meets child care regulations (nonpublic) ⁵	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Assistant teacher degree	AA (public); HSD + 30 hr course in CD (nonpublic) ⁵	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher in-service	9 credit hours/7 years (public); 12 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		20		
4-year-olds		20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds		1:10		
4-year-olds		1:10		
Screening/referral	Determined locally; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Meals	No meals are required	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Monitoring	None ⁷	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>	

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$1,089,899
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,639
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,639

* 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 2012-2013 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 '12-'13 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Of the 1,102 children receiving services through the EEI program, 689 children were also served in the Act 62 program and reported in that figure. Those children served in both programs are only counted once in the state total to avoid duplication of enrollment.
² EEI is a competitive grant program. A total of 41 grants were awarded in 2012-2013.
³ Children may also qualify based on other risk factors such as developmental delay, risk for abuse or neglect, limited English proficiency, exposure to violence, homelessness, or geographic isolation.
⁴ Grantees propose their EEI service delivery model systems. Most EEI programs are half-day, 8-11 hours/week, for 2-3 days/week.

⁵ Teachers in public settings must have a BA with an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) birth-grade 3 or Early Childhood Special Educator (ECSE) birth-age 5 certification. State policy does not explicitly require teachers in nonpublic settings to hold a BA. All teachers in nonpublic settings must have a minimum of an AA in
⁶ Screenings and referrals are up to the EEI grantee to determine. Support services include parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities and transition to kindergarten activities.
⁷ State policy does not formally require monitoring for EEI, except for financial reports and a program's annual report, including child progress data. Department of Education staff may conduct unannounced site visits.