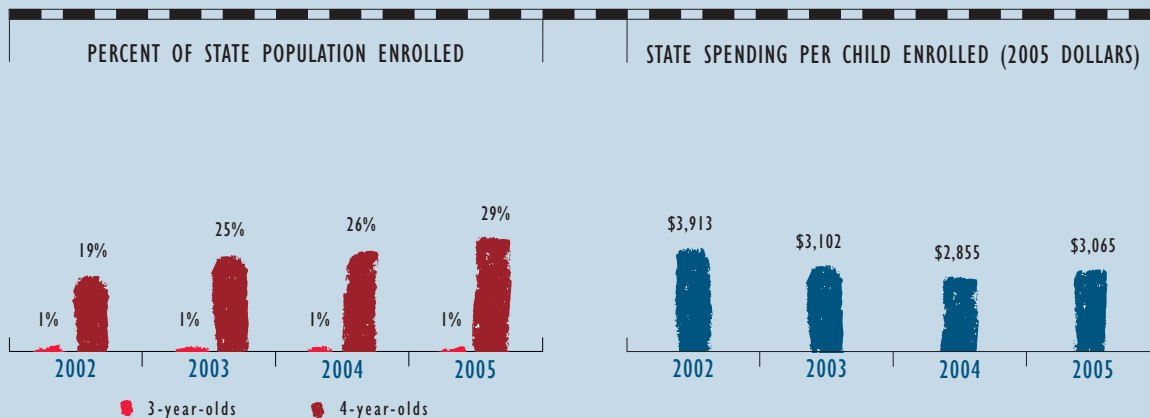


Wisconsin



Wisconsin first made a constitutional commitment to provide a free education for 4-year-olds in 1848. In 1873, the state established the Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) program, which still exists today (although state aid was temporarily suspended from 1957 to 1984). Through the 4K program, local school districts that choose to offer half-day classes for 4-year-olds receive 50 percent of the standard state per-pupil contribution provided for K–12, or 60 percent if the school also offers parent support.

Most prekindergarten classes are offered in public schools, but in recent years the state has made efforts to promote community approaches, with local Head Start and child care centers providing services. The state has also successfully encouraged districts that were not offering prekindergarten to open programs and districts already offering programs to serve more children.

Recent efforts to improve the program include the development of Model Early Learning Standards through collaborative work among state agencies.

Through another initiative, Wisconsin provides funding to supplement federal Head Start grantees. These programs follow the federal Head Start Performance Standards and offer comprehensive early education for 3- and 4-year-old children who are from low-income families or who have disabilities.

In order to document the contributions Wisconsin 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 4K and state-financed Head Start 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 4K program, while the final page focuses exclusively on the state-funded Head Start program.

STATE OVERVIEW

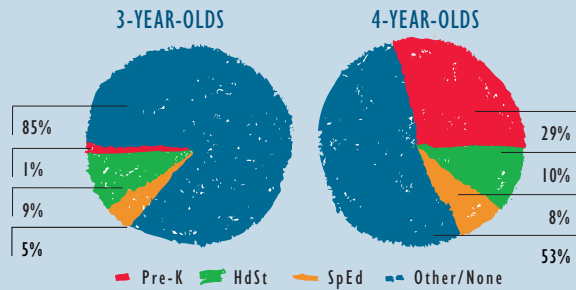
Total state program enrollment - - - - -	19,971
Total state spending - - - - -	\$61,212,500
State spending per child enrolled - - - - -	\$3,065
State Head Start spending - - - - -	\$7,212,500
State spending per 3-year-old - - - - -	\$49
State spending per 4-year-old - - - - -	\$864

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

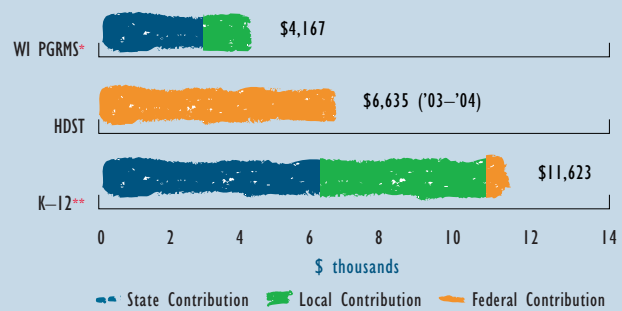
** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

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

9

ACCESS RANKING—3s

21

RESOURCES RANKING

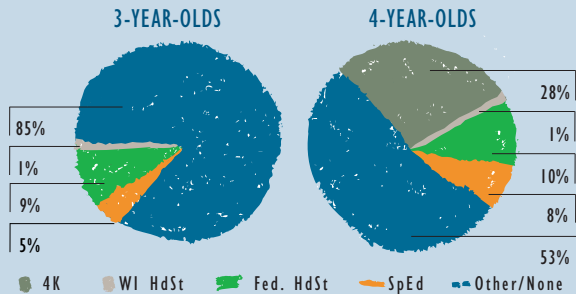
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WISCONSIN FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	-----	18,652
School districts that offer state program	-----	50%
Income requirement	-----	None
Hours of operation	-----	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	-----	Academic year ¹
Special education enrollment	-----	9,230
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	-----	12,773
State-funded Head Start enrollment	-----	1,319 ²

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	----- EC level license ³	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	----- Teacher asst. license or AA (public), I course in EC (nonpublic) ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	----- 180 clock hours or 6 credit hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	----- NA		
4-year-olds	----- Determined locally		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	----- NA		
4-year-olds	----- Determined locally		
Screening/referral and support services	----- Support services only ⁵	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	----- None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	----- Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>



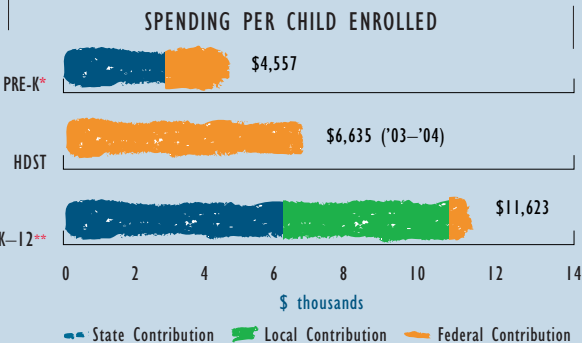
RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	-----	\$54,000,000
Local match required?	--- Yes—local share of school revenue	
State spending per child enrolled	-----	\$2,895
State Head Start spending	-----	\$7,212,500
State spending per 3-year-old	-----	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	-----	\$806

^{*} 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.

- Programs must operate for a minimum of 437 hours and 180 days per year. Although districts determine specific weeks and months of operation, most programs operate 2.5 hours per day and 5 days per week. Programs may add 87.5 hours per year for parent outreach.
- Wisconsin did not break this figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age breakdowns used in the Access pie chart were also estimated, using proportions of federal Head Start enrollees in each age category.
- Wisconsin licensing standards define the early childhood level as applicable to the approximate ages of birth through 8. Licensing at this level requires all teachers to obtain competencies specific to working with preschool-age children.
- This requirement for assistant teachers in nonpublic settings reflects child care licensing regulations, which also require that assistant teachers be at least 18 years old.
- Vision, hearing, immunization, and general health screenings are required at kindergarten entrance for all children. Typically, they are provided by family physicians or through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. LEAs follow up with children who do not receive these services. However, referrals are not mandatory. Additional support services include parent involvement activities, health services for children, referral to social services, school counseling, and transportation.

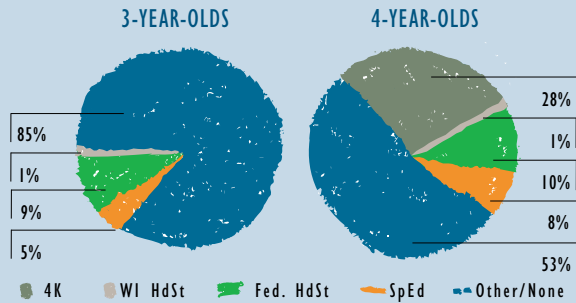


WISCONSIN STATE-FUNDED HEAD START MODEL

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	-----	1,319 ¹
School districts that offer state program	-----	100% (federal Head Start grantees)
Income requirement	-----	90% of children must be at or below 100% FPL
Hours of operation	-----	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	-----	Determined locally ²
Special education enrollment	-----	9,230
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	-----	12,773
State-funded Head Start enrollment	-----	1,319 ¹

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



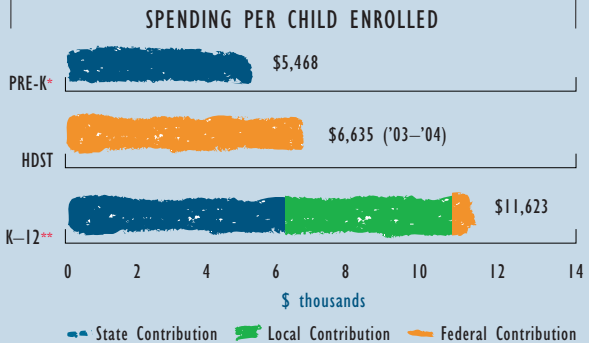
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	----- Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	----- CDA ³	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	----- Meets CDA requirements	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	----- Determined locally (public), 1 course in EC (nonpublic) ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	----- Amount not specified	At least 15 hours/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	----- 17		
4-year-olds	----- 20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	----- 2:17		
4-year-olds	----- 1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	----- Vision, hearing, and health; and support services ⁵	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	----- Lunch and/or breakfast ⁶	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	----- Other monitoring	Site visits	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	-----	\$7,212,500
Local match required?	-----	No
State spending per child enrolled	-----	\$5,468
State Head Start spending	-----	\$7,212,500 ⁷
State spending per 3-year-old	-----	\$49 ¹
State spending per 4-year-old	-----	\$58 ¹



* 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 Wisconsin did not break this figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, age breakdowns used in the Access pie chart and Resources section were also estimated, using proportions of federal Head Start enrollees in each age category.
² Programs must operate a minimum of 3.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, and for 32 weeks per year, as required by federal Head Start Performance Standards.
³ School districts that are federal Head Start grantees may require lead teachers to have a BA and appropriate licensure, and assistant teachers to have an AA degree and assistant teacher license.
⁴ This requirement for assistant teachers in nonpublic settings reflects child care licensing regulations, which also require that assistant teachers be at least 18 years old.
⁵ Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or education, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and others as per federal Head Start Performance Standards.
⁶ The federal Head Start Performance Standards require that part-day programs provide children with at least one-third of their daily nutritional needs, and full-day programs provide one-half to two-thirds of daily nutritional needs, depending on the length of the program day. All children in morning center-based settings must be given the opportunity to have a nutritious breakfast.
⁷ All spending through this initiative is directed toward Head Start programs.