

Wisconsin

↑ '02-'03 ENROLLMENT		25% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K
'03-'04 ENROLLMENT	Not available at press time	
↓ '02-'03 RESOURCES		\$2,881 per child
'03-'04 RESOURCES	Not available at press time	

↑ Up from '01-'02 ↓ Down from '01-'02 = No change from '01-'02

Wisconsin's constitution has included a commitment to free education for 4-year-olds since 1848. The current Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) program dates back to 1873, although state aid was suspended from 1957 to 1984. Through the 4K program, local school districts that choose to provide 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 the state is encouraging more subcontracting with local Head Start and child care centers for services.

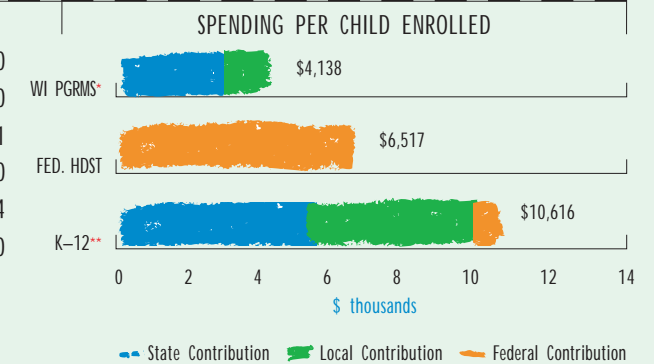
The state promotes the expansion of the 4K program by urging districts that do not offer prekindergarten to take advantage of the option to do so, and by encouraging districts that already offer prekindergarten to serve more children. Other recent efforts to improve the program include the development of Model Early Learning Standards through collaborative work among state agencies. During the 2003-2004 school year, 4K programs received a total of \$43 million in state funds (plus \$22 million in local funds) and served 16,968 children.

In addition to supporting the 4K program, Wisconsin also reserves funding to supplement federal Head Start grantees. These programs follow the federal Head Start Performance Standards and provide comprehensive early education for 3- and 4-year-old children who are from low-income families or who have disabilities. The state supplement to Head Start was reduced during the 2003-2004 year.

Although most states have a single state-financed prekindergarten initiative, Wisconsin makes significant contributions to prekindergarten through two separate initiatives—4K and the state-funded Head Start model. As a result, in the first two pages of this profile we 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	17,500
Total state spending	\$50,425,000
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,881
State Head Start spending	\$7,425,000
State spending per 3-year-old	\$44
State spending per 4-year-old	\$700

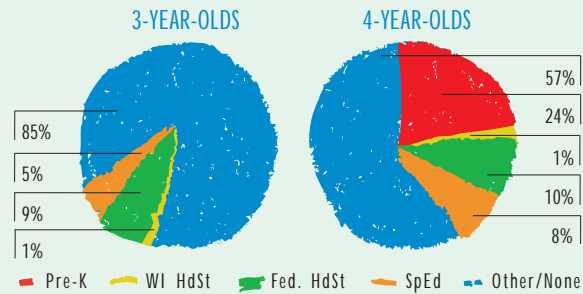


WISCONSIN FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	16,051
School districts that offer state program	45%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year ¹
Special education enrollment	8,696
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	12,901
State-funded Head Start enrollment	1,449 ²

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



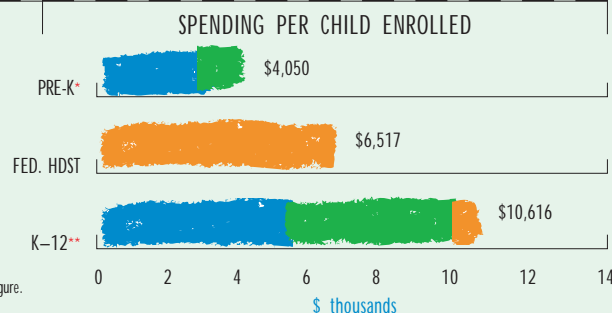
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Teaching license in Pre-K-K, Pre-K-3, Pre-K-6, or K ³	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	Teacher asst. license or AA (public), 18 yrs old + 1 course in EC (nonpublic) ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	6 credit hours or 180 DPI clock hours/5 years ⁵	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 requirements	Determined locally ⁶	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	Support services ⁷	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL: **3** of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$43,000,000
Local match required?	Yes—local share of school revenue
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,679
State Head Start spending	\$7,425,000
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$635



* 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.

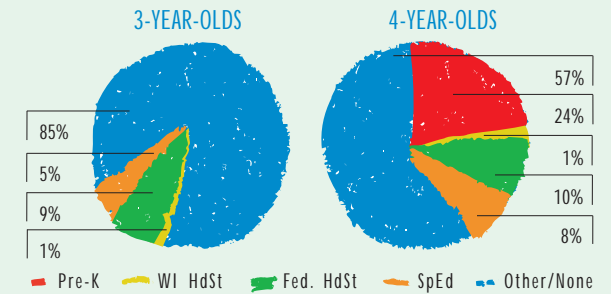
- Programs must operate for a minimum of 437 hours per year and may add 87.5 hours for parent outreach. Most programs operate 2.5 hours per day, 5 days per week for 180 days per year. Some programs operate 4 days per week with parent outreach on the fifth day. Several school districts operate programs for the full calendar year, but they receive the same funding as academic year programs.
- 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.
- New licensing standards take effect in 2004 creating early-childhood-level licenses.
- Assistant teachers in Title I schools are required to have an AA. The requirements for assistant teachers in nonpublic schools reflect child care licensing standards.
- As of 2004, new teachers will be required to have professional development plans, mentors, and team support. Teachers hired before 2004 may use either the old system of credits (rather than clock hours) or the new system of professional development planning.
- Vision, hearing, and general health screenings are required at kindergarten entrance for all children. Typically they are provided by family physicians or through the state Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. LEAs follow up with children who do not receive these services. Referrals, however, are not mandatory.
- Support services include parent involvement activities, health services for children, referral to social services, transportation, and school counseling. The number of required annual parent conferences or home visits is determined locally.

WISCONSIN STATE-FUNDED HEAD START MODEL

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,449 ¹
School districts that offer state program	94% (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	8,696
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	12,901
State-funded Head Start enrollment	1,449 ¹

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



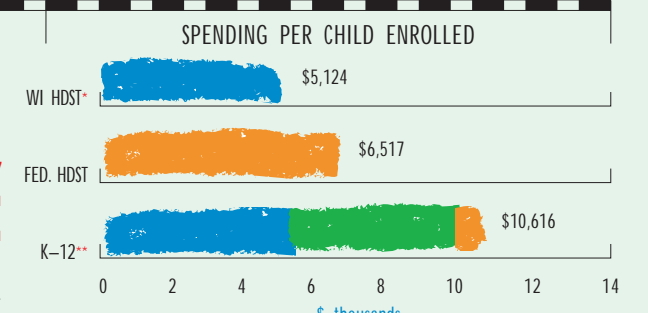
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	CDA ³	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Meets CDA requirements	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	Determined locally (public) ⁴ , 18 yrs old + 1 course in EC (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	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 requirements	Vision, hearing, and health	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	2 home visits and support services ⁵	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	Lunch and/or breakfast ⁶	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL: **6** of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$7,425,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,124
State Head Start spending	\$7,425,000 ⁷
State spending per 3-year-old	\$44 ¹
State spending per 4-year-old	\$65 ¹



* 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.

- Wisconsin's state-funded Head Start program did not break its enrollment 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.
- 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.
- When a school district is the federal Head Start grantee, it may require a BA and appropriate licensure.
- When a school district is the federal Head Start grantee, it may require an AA degree and assistant license.
- Support services include education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for parents and children, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and other locally determined services.
- 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.
- All spending through this initiative is directed toward Head Start programs.