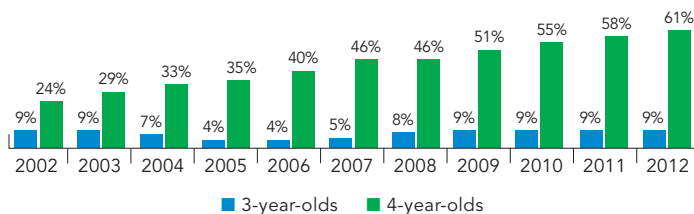


West Virginia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2012 DOLLARS)



The Public School Early Childhood Education Initiative was formed in 1983 after revisions to West Virginia’s school code allowed local school boards to provide programs for 3- and 4-year-olds, although as of 2004, 3-year-olds have only been eligible for state-funded preschool if they had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). In 2002, West Virginia expanded preschool education and is striving to make it available to all 4-year-olds statewide by the 2012-2013 school year. Now referred to as the West Virginia Universal Pre-K System, this program offers prekindergarten programs in all 55 of the state’s counties.

Funding for the West Virginia Universal Pre-K System is provided directly to public schools; however, these schools may then subcontract with other agencies to provide services. To facilitate the expansion, half of the programs are required to operate in collaborative settings with child care centers, Head Start agencies, and private prekindergarten centers. Some programs use supplementary funding from sources such as the federal Head Start, IDEA, and Titles I and II. However, districts are shifting over to state aid funding as the state moves toward universal access.

Effective with the 2009-2010 school year, the West Virginia Board of Education requires programs to provide meals, regardless of the hours of instruction. The state’s early learning standards were updated in 2010 to align with kindergarten content standards and objectives and to address assessment and school readiness, with these policy revisions going into effect during the 2010-2011 program year.

Child and program assessments were revised in the 2010-2011 school year and were implemented in the 2011-2012 program year. Formerly done using the Creative Curriculum tool, child assessments are now conducted through a comprehensive assessment system using the Early Learning Scale, health data, and additional information. Programs are assessed using the ECERS-R tool once every three years, rather than annually as in the past. Programs also develop a comprehensive monitoring system to provide ongoing continuous quality improvement, which allows for the use and implementation of other monitoring tools established by the local collaborative team. The West Virginia Universal Pre-K program was evaluated for process quality in 2009 and 2012 as well as for program impact/child outcomes in 2005.

Additional revisions were made to state policy that will go into effect during the 2012-2013 school year, which include increasing the total number of instructional days per year from 108 to 128 and raising the minimum number of instructional hours per week from 12 to 14. In addition, programs are required to establish a process for phasing in the requirement for lead teachers in community partnerships to have a bachelor’s degree, which will be mandatory for all newly hired teachers as of August 2013. West Virginia also plans to revise and strengthen requirements for assistant teachers during the 2012-2013 school year, with the state Department of Education recommending that assistant teachers be required to hold a CDA.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
5	7

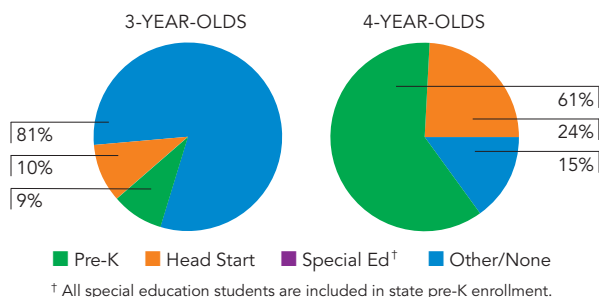
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
8	4

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSAL PRE-K

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	15,268
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement.....	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year ¹
Special education enrollment	2,857
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4	7,193
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 in ECE or Pre-K SpEd (public); AA (nonpublic) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	See footnote ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours per year	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds20		
4-year-olds20		
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds1:10		
4-year-olds1:10		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health, dental, and support services developmental; and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals.....	At least 1 meal	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

8

RESOURCES

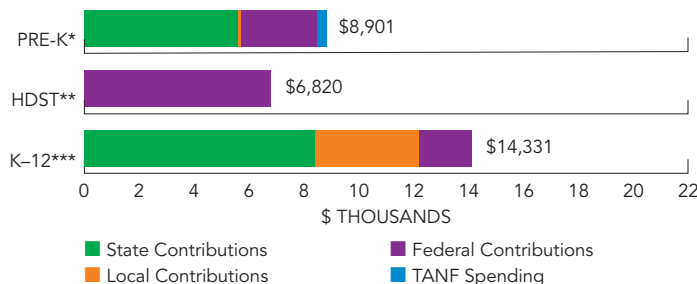
Total state pre-K spending	\$91,644,229 ⁵
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$6,002 ⁵
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$8,901

* 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 2011-2012 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Hours of operation are determined locally, but programs must operate for at least 12 hours per week and at least 108 instructional days.

² Beginning August 1, 2013, all newly hired teachers in nonpublic school settings will be required to have a minimum of a BA.

³ Teachers in public school settings that are not collaboratives must be certified in pre-K 3-5, ECE, preschool special needs, or EE with a pre-K-K endorsement. Teachers in community collaborative settings must have a minimum of an AA in child development, early childhood education, or occupational development with an emphasis in child development.

⁴ Support services include parent conferences and/or home visits, transition to kindergarten activities, and other locally determined services.

⁵ These figures include both state and TANF funds.