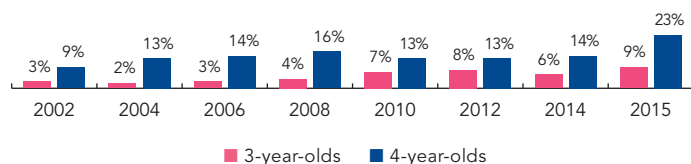


Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED*
(2015 DOLLARS)



Connecticut currently serves pre-kindergarten children in two state-funded programs: School Readiness Program (SRP) and Child Day Care Contracts (CDCC). As of July 2013, the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) provides oversight for both of these programs and has been working to better align them. In previous years, parent fees for participation in CDCC were re-determined every six months, which did not meet the NIEER definition of a state-funded preschool program, therefore excluding it from the Yearbook. Due to a policy change of re-calculating fees annually, and the provision that allows families that are over income to remain enrolled, CDCC is included in Connecticut's entry this year.

SRP was founded in 1997 in an effort to increase access to early childhood programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. Financial support is available to 19 Priority School Readiness districts, as defined by legislation, and 49 are Competitive School Readiness municipalities that have one or more schools in which 40% or more of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or are one of the communities identified within the 50 lowest-wealth-ranked towns in the state, as defined by legislation. All families, regardless of income levels, can apply for School Readiness spaces in Competitive and Priority municipalities; however, 60% of children enrolled in each municipality must meet the income guideline of being at or below 75% SMI. In 2014-2015, SRP enrollment increased 23% from the previous year and enrolled 12,098 3- and 4-year-olds in full-day, school-day, or part-day programs. FY2015 state funding increased to \$101.8 million from \$82.7 million the previous year.

CDCC are jointly funded through state funding and the Social Service Block Grant and must operate for at least 10 hours per day. In 2014-2015, CDCC enrolled 2,601 preschool-age children, targeting children with household incomes below 75% of the state median income. CDCC programs do not operate in public schools; and are reimbursed through a purchase-of-service contracting system administered by OEC.

Both SRP and CDCC non-Head Start programs must be NAEYC accredited. Pre-K programs operating within public schools, private child care centers, and faith-based settings have until the third anniversary of the first day children attend the program to achieve it. In order to help prepare programs that are not accredited, annual ECERS self-assessments are required. The scores themselves are not turned in to OEC but the name of the consultant who conducted the assessment and the date completed are submitted annually.

In 2014, Connecticut was awarded a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant for \$12.5 million.

Currently, pre-K lead teachers in public and nonpublic schools must have at least a CDA and 12 early childhood credits and are not required to be paid on parity with public school district salary schedules for K-12 teachers. Staff-qualifications for all state-funded early childhood programs were increased in July 2011, with a phase-in schedule over the next few years. By 2017, 50% of lead teachers must hold a BA and 50% must hold an AA specific to Early Childhood. By 2020, 100% of lead teachers must hold a BA. To support professional development, SRP grantees through their local School Readiness Council can apply to OEC for Quality Enhancement funds. Funds are allotted based on student enrollment within the municipality and, in 2014-2015, ranged from \$3,900 to \$135,000 per year to individual grantees.

State policy does not regulate services for DLL/ELL students. It is strongly suggested that programs provide a staff member or volunteer who speaks the child's home language. A supplement framework to the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS) was developed to increase awareness of the stages of acquiring a second language and to identify strategies to support their language and development. In addition, the CT ELDS and training guides have been translated into Spanish. Only SRP is required to use a curriculum that is aligned with CT ELDS and to implement an assessment such as the CT Preschool Assessment Framework that addresses learning standards and outcomes for the children. The current Kindergarten Entrance Inventory (KEI) requires kindergarten teachers to provide a global rating of children across 4 areas of development. Connecticut is a charter state in the MD Enhanced Grant Consortium and will have a revised KEI in 2017.

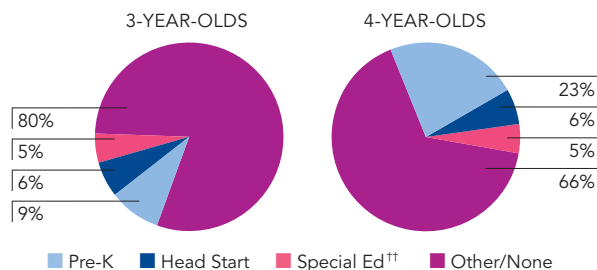
Connecticut's overall support for pre-K is profiled on the following page. The third page focuses exclusively on the Child Day Care Contracts initiative and the final page presents details on the School Readiness Program.

STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS

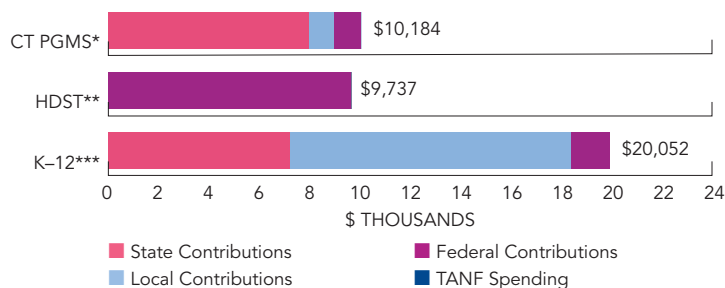
Total state program enrollment	14,699
Total state spending	\$119,151,878
State spending per child enrolled	\$8,106
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$10,184

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



^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state 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 2014-2015 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 '14-'15 school year, unless otherwise noted.

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
23	8

RESOURCES RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
5	3

POLICIES TO SUPPORT

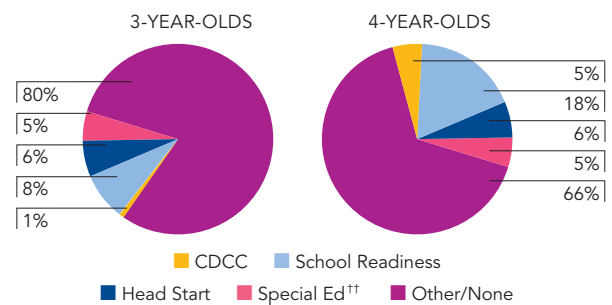
DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS	WORKFORCE
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CONNECTICUT CHILD DAY CARE CONTRACTS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	2,601
School districts that offer state program	28% (towns/communities)
Income requirement	75% SMI
Hours of operation	10 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	State-determined
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	5,242
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	4,986
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	267

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



^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	☒
Teacher degree	CDA plus 12 Early Childhood credits	BA	☐
Teacher specialized training	CDA plus 12 Early Childhood credits (Pre-K 3- and 4-year-olds)	Specializing in pre-K	☒
Assistant teacher degree	Other ¹	CDA or equivalent	☐
Teacher in-service	20 clock hours/year	At least 15 hours/year	☒
Maximum class size		20 or lower	☒
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	☒
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Immunizations; full physical exam; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	☐
Meals	Breakfast; lunch; snack	At least 1/day	☒
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring ²	Site visits	☐

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

6

RESOURCES

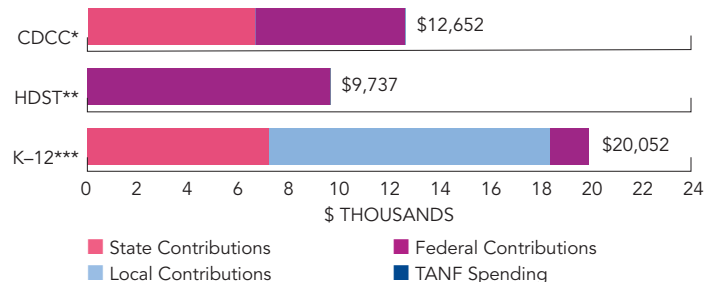
Total state pre-K spending	\$17,304,300
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$5,744,093
State spending per child enrolled	\$6,653
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$12,652

* 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 2014-2015 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 '14-'15 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ CDCC programs are required to be Head Start approved or accredited by NAEYC and need to meet the requirement for assistant teachers for their accreditation/approval system.

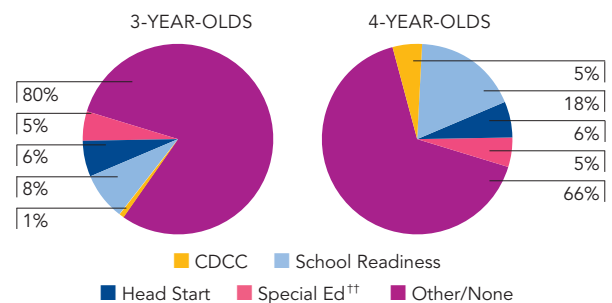
² Site visits are conducted based on need or when staff availability permits them. This does not meet the NIEER benchmark.

CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	12,098
School districts that offer state program	40% (towns/communities)
Income requirement	75% SMI ¹
Hours of operation	2.5-10 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	5,242
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	4,986
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	267

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



^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	☒
Teacher degree	CDA plus 12 Early Childhood credits	BA	☐
Teacher specialized training	CDA plus 12 Early Childhood credits (Pre-K 3- and 4-year-olds)	Specializing in pre-K	☒
Assistant teacher degree	No minimum degree required ²	CDA or equivalent	☐
Teacher in-service	9 clock hours/year	At least 15 hours/year	☐
Maximum class size		20 or lower	☒
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	☒
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Vision; hearing; height/weight/BMI; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	☒
Meals	Depends on length of program day ³	At least 1/day	☐
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	☒

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
6

RESOURCES

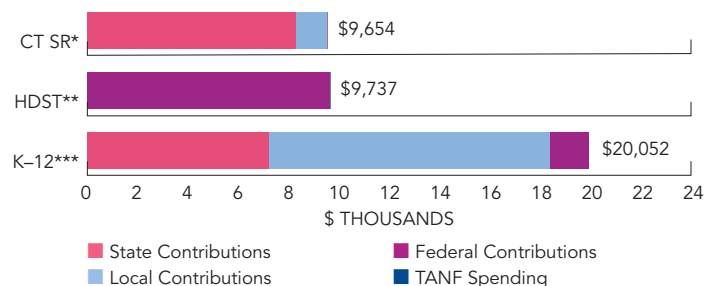
Total state pre-K spending	\$101,847,578
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$5,744,093
State spending per child enrolled	\$8,419
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$9,654

* 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 2014-2015 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 '14-'15 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Sixty percent of children enrolled in each municipality must meet the income guideline of at or below 75% SMI. All families, regardless of income, can apply for School Readiness spaces in competitive and priority municipalities.

² If accredited, assistant teachers must meet NAEYC requirements, and if a Head Start program, they must meet Head Start requirements.

³ Programs are required to serve one snack to children who attend fewer than 5 hours per day and one snack plus one meal to children in class for 5 to 8 hours per day. Children attending more than 8 hours per day must be provided one snack and two meals or two snacks and one meal. Either the program or the parent may provide the food.