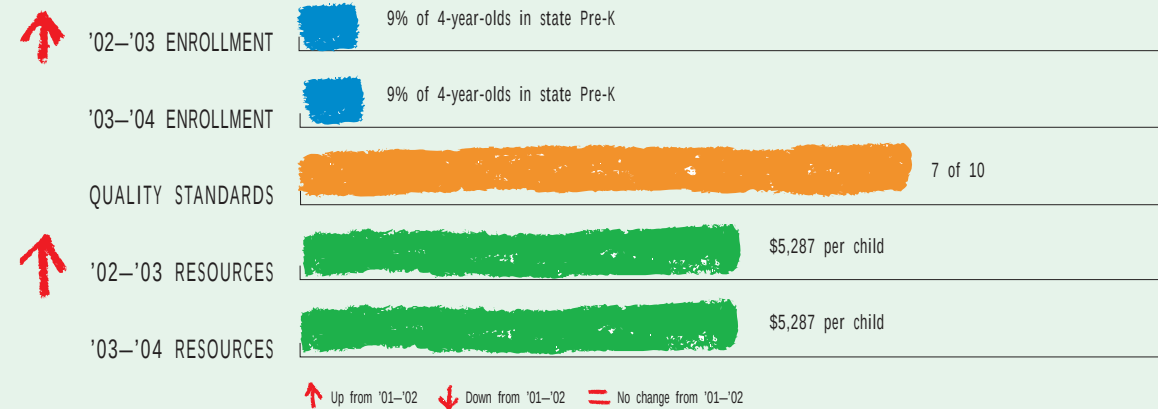


Delaware



In 1994, the Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) was established to increase the number of Head Start-eligible 4-year-olds who have access to comprehensive early childhood services prior to kindergarten. Head Start programs, public schools, nonprofit agencies, private child care centers, and community colleges receive ECAP funds from the state. ECAP offers the same services as the federal Head Start program, follows the same performance standards, and uses similar eligibility criteria. As in Head Start, at least 90 percent of the children enrolled must come from families below the federal poverty line. Ten percent of the slots may be filled by children who are from families above the federal poverty line and exhibit other risk factors including, but not limited to, an identified disability.

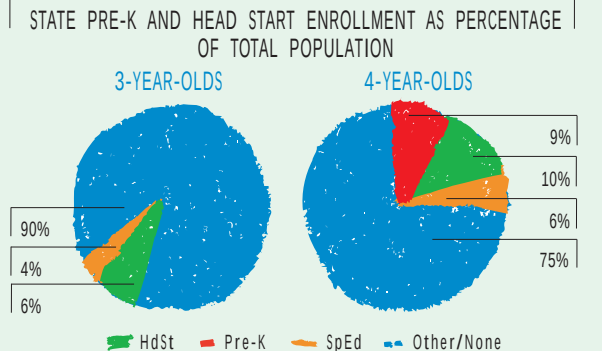
The state Department of Education has developed and published the Delaware Early Learning Foundations, a curriculum framework for instructional planning in preschool. This framework was adopted in August 2003, and is mandatory for state-funded educational programs. The Delaware Early Learning Foundations framework is aligned with K-12 standards and performance indicators.

With \$4,456,700 in state funding, ECAP served 843 4-year-olds in 2003-2004.



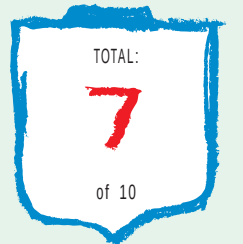
ACCESS

Total state program enrollment - - - - - 843
 School districts that offer state program - - - - 100% (counties) ¹
 Income requirement - - 90% of children must be below 100% FPL
 Hours of operation - - - - - Half-day, full-week
 Operating schedule - - - - - Academic year
 Special education enrollment - - - - - 1,065
 Federally funded Head Start enrollment - - - - - 1,541
 State-funded Head Start enrollment - - - - - 843 ²



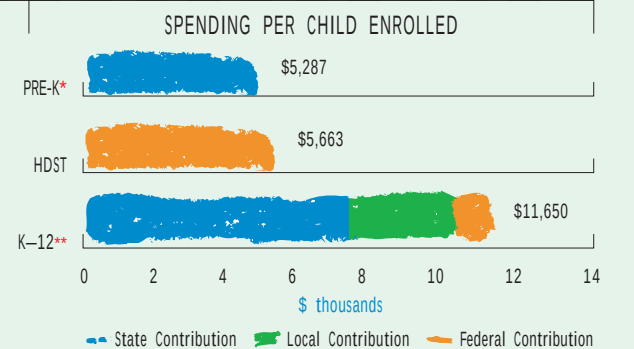
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards - - - - -	None	Comprehensive	☐
Teacher degree requirement - - - - -	CDA	BA	☐
Teacher specialized training requirement -	Meets CDA requirements	Specializing in Pre-K	☒
Assistant teacher degree requirement - - -	HSD	CDA or equivalent	☐
Teacher in-service requirement - - - - -	15 clock hours ³	At least 15 hours/year	☒
Maximum class size		20 or lower	☒
3-year-olds - - - - -	NA		
4-year-olds - - - - -	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	☒
3-year-olds - - - - -	NA		
4-year-olds - - - - -	1:10		
Screening/referral requirements - - -	Hearing, vision, general health, developmental, and behavioral	Vision, hearing, and health	☒
Required support services - - - - -	4 parent conferences and support services ⁴	At least 1 service	☒
Meal requirement - - - - -	Breakfast and lunch	At least 1/day	☒



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending - - - - - \$4,456,700
 Local match required? - - - - - No
 State spending per child enrolled - - - - - \$5,287
 State Head Start spending - - - - - \$4,456,700 ⁵
 State spending per 3-year-old - - - - - \$0
 State spending per 4-year-old - - - - - \$449



* 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.

- While the program is not targeted to particular school districts, communities, or towns, it is available in each of Delaware's three counties. In 2002-2003, at least two programs were available in each county.
- This number represents ECAP enrollment. All state-funded Head Start enrollment is through ECAP.
- This represents the requirement to meet state child care licensing standards. There is no specific ECAP requirement.
- Support services include parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and medical and dental services.
- ECAP is a state-funded Head Start model. All state Pre-K spending is therefore directed toward Head Start programs.