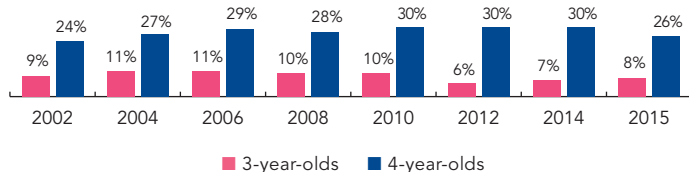
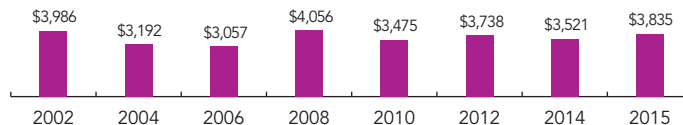


Kentucky

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED*
(2015 DOLLARS)



The Kentucky Preschool Program (KPP) was launched in 1990, in response to the Kentucky Education Reform Act. The program is available to 4-year-olds from low-income families, as well as to 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities. In 2014-2015, 18,716 eligible children were enrolled, representing a slight decline in the past three years. This reduction in enrollment is attributed to a more precise child count data system and a change in age eligibility. As a result of HB235 (2014), children must now be 4 years old as of August 1 of that school year to be eligible; previously, they had to be 4 years old by October 1. Children who do not meet state eligibility requirements may participate based on space availability, though they are funded by district money or tuition rather than by state dollars. In 2014-2015, \$71.7 million in state funds were used to support KPP; that will be increasing by \$18 million in 2015-2016.

KPP is administered by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), Office of Next Generation Learners, Division of Program Standards, School Readiness Branch. Funds are distributed to school districts through a funding formula. Each of Kentucky's 173 school districts offered KPP services in 2014-2015. School districts may subcontract with private child-care centers, Head Start programs, and special education providers to offer preschool services.

Kentucky was one of five states funded in the third round of the federal Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge in 2013. The \$44.3 million federal grant is being used to expand and enhance the quality rating system (STARS). All early childhood programs that receive public funds, including KPP, must participate in STARS in 2015-2016. Since 2011-2012, programs have been monitored through the Preschool Program Review (P2R) process that includes a self-evaluation of the preschool standards through an online survey, completion of an ECERS-R for every classroom, and site visits at least once every 5 years to observe classrooms at every site. Additionally, the KDE, Division of Consolidated Plans and Audits, randomly selects 14 districts to receive a site visit.

The most recent third-party program evaluation that included Kentucky programs in its sample was completed by the University of Kentucky in 2014. The study found that CLASS scores in KPP were higher when teachers reported having a master's degree and that all children who attended preschool demonstrated higher gains in language and literacy by the end of kindergarten than children who did not attend preschool.

Kentucky requires each classroom to have a lead teacher with a BA plus an interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education certification. There is an exception for lead teachers hired prior to 2004-2005 who hold a CDA or AA in Child Development. These teachers are allowed to remain in their current positions, but may not transfer to other districts. Lead and assistant teachers in public schools are paid on par, and have the same fringe benefits, with district salary schedules and benefits, but there is no requirement for teachers in nonpublic schools. KPP teachers participate in Kentucky's Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES), a system based on the Danielson Framework, designed to measure teacher and leader effectiveness. The process was piloted with preschool teachers in 2014-2015 and fully implemented in 2015-2016.

Thirty-eight different home languages have been identified as being spoken by the 1,551 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in KPP in 2014-2015. While Kentucky does not regulate ELL services for KPP, translators or bilingual staff are available in districts and materials for parents may be translated into Spanish. ELL funding starts at kindergarten. As a member of the WIDA Consortium since 2006, Kentucky encourages districts to use the Early English Language (E-ELD) standards to develop meaningful teaching and learning experiences for preschool students.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
21	10

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
25	11

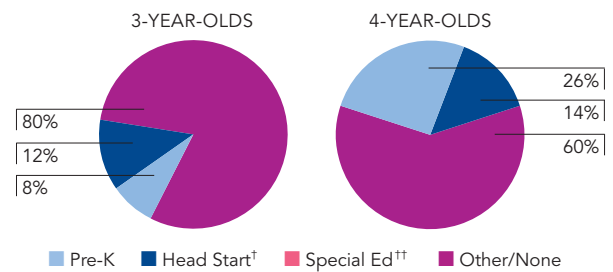
POLICIES TO SUPPORT	
DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS	WORKFORCE
—	✓

KENTUCKY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	18,716
School districts that offer state program	100% (school districts)
Income requirement	150% FPL
Hours of operation	2.5 hours/day
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,560
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	14,629
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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



[†] Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
^{††} 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	BA	BA	☒
Teacher specialized training	Interdisciplinary ECE certification	Specializing in pre-K	☒
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	☐
Teacher in-service	24 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; blood pressure; immunizations; psychosocial/behavioral; developmental; full physical exam; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	☒
Meals	Breakfast or lunch	At least 1/day	☒
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	☒

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
9

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$71,767,687
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,835
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,679

* 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

