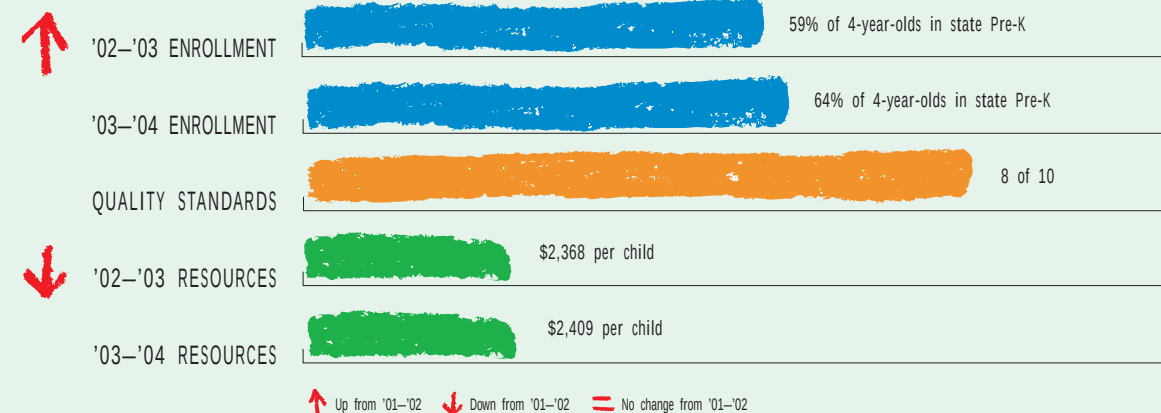


Oklahoma



Oklahoma has been providing prekindergarten for 4-year-olds since 1980 when the state Legislature appropriated funds for a pilot program. This initiative continued until 1990 when additional legislation broadened the program to include 4-year-olds eligible for Head Start. Since 1998, the Early Childhood Four-Year-Old program has further expanded eligibility criteria to include all 4-year-old children whose parents wish them to attend. The number of districts offering prekindergarten and the number of children participating have steadily increased, and in 2002–2003 Oklahoma ranked first in the nation for the percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled.

Districts that choose to provide prekindergarten are reimbursed through the school funding formula for each child enrolled. The funding amount varies depending on whether schools offer a half-day program or a full-day program. The large majority of participating children are served in public schools, but some local districts collaborate with child care centers, Head Start programs and other community-based organizations to provide services.

All prekindergarten teachers, regardless of the setting in which prekindergarten is offered, are required to have a bachelor's degree with certification in early childhood education and are paid on the same salary scale as other public school teachers in higher grades.

The Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program was funded at \$72,703,361 and served 30,180 children during the 2003–2004 school year.

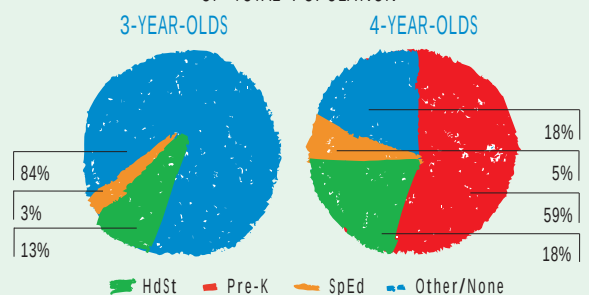
Oklahoma also provides state supplement funds to some federal Head Start grantees. In fiscal year 2003, \$3.3 million was appropriated to Head Start programs to support additional enrollment, expanded services, and extended program hours.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	28,060
School districts that offer state program	91%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	3,952
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	14,543
State-funded Head Start enrollment	105 ²

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



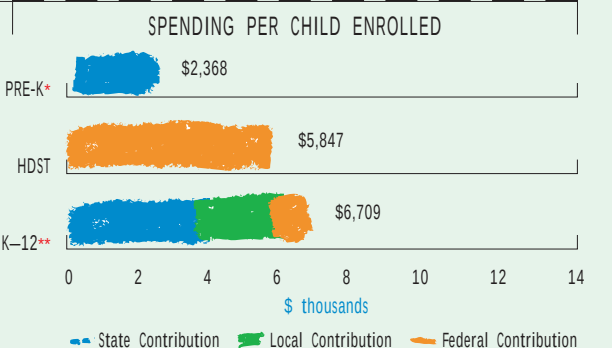
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	☒
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	☒
Teacher specialized training requirement	EC certificate	Specializing in Pre-K	☒
Assistant teacher degree requirement	GED or HSD	CDA or equivalent	☐
Teacher in-service requirement	15 clock hours	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	Determined locally	Vision, hearing, and health	☐
Required support services	Support services ³	At least 1 service	☒
Meal requirement	Breakfast, lunch, and snack ⁴	At least 1/day	☒



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$66,439,166
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,368
State Head Start spending	\$3,300,000
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$1,406



* 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.

- Half-day programs operate for 2.5 hours, while full-day programs operate for 6 hours. Many districts offer both full- and half-day programs. All programs must operate 5 days per week. Statewide, 15,746 children attend half-day programs, and 12,314 attend full-day programs.
- Funds from Oklahoma's Head Start supplement were used mostly to enhance services. Some funds were also used to increase enrollment, although the state did not track the number of additional children served through its Head Start supplement. This figure is an estimate based on the number of non-ACYF funded children in Oklahoma reported in Head Start's 2002–2003 Program Information Report, and proportions of Oklahoma's federal Head Start enrollees who were 3 or 4 years old.
- Support services include health services for children, transportation, and other services determined locally. Parent conferences are encouraged but not required; most programs offer two per year.
- Pre-K programs are part of public school districts where breakfast and lunch are required to be made available for all children.