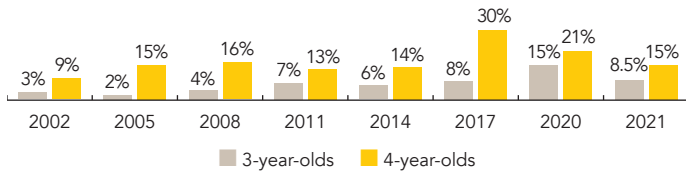
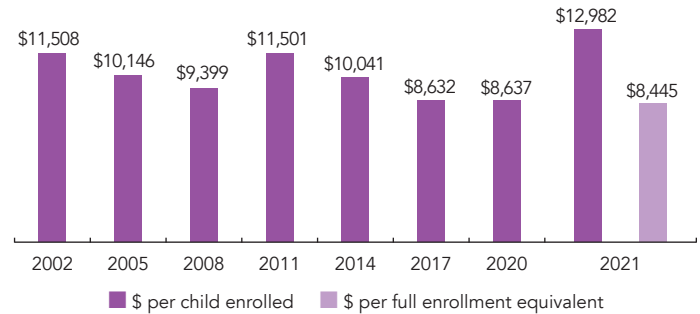


Connecticut

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2021 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

During the 2020-2021 school year as the COVID-19 pandemic continued, Connecticut preschool programs enrolled 9,666 children, a decrease of 5,193 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$125,484,984 (including \$74,800 in federal recovery dollars), down \$2,853,888 (2%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$12,982 in 2020-2021, up \$4,345 from 2019-2020, adjusted for inflation. Connecticut met an average of 5.1 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) made several changes to Child Day Care Contracts (CDCC), School Readiness (SR), and Smart Start program funding during the COVID-19 pandemic. The OEC continued funding these programs when they were closed due to the pandemic. The agency then paid by classroom rather than by child to help stabilize funding for programs that had low enrollments. In addition, OEC implemented 25% funding enhancement per program to help support programs that had lower enrollments. The 25% enhancement continued through December 2021.

During the 2020-2021 school year, there was a mix of in-person and remote instruction with districts allowed to operate for 177 days instead of 180 days, allowing for COVID-19 cleaning and preparation purposes. At the start of Fall 2021, all preschool programs were physically open.

For SFY 21 funding, CDCC programs received a rate increase for full-time preschool spaces to achieve parity with School Readiness full-day/full-year rates. This increased rate is now the base rate for full-time preschool spaces from the beginning of October 2020.

During the 2020-2021 school year, OEC continued to support remote instruction with professional development, technology for families and programs, and with program enhancements such as paying parent fees for state funded preschool families to encourage enrollment, and offering funding for summer enhancements (i.e., field trips, parent events). OEC also worked with Family Resource Centers and Head Start to offer summer learning experiences for children who had missed out on preschool during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19 using state federal relief dollars.

BACKGROUND

Connecticut serves prekindergarten children in three state-funded programs: School Readiness Program (SR), Child Day Care Contracts (CDCC), and Smart Start, all supervised by the OEC. Non-Head Start SR, CDCC, and Smart Start programs have three years to become NAEYC accredited. Programs not NAEYC accredited or Head Start approved are required to have annual Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) ratings by state-approved raters to help prepare them for accreditation.

Connecticut has provided funding for CDCC for 40 years through a purchase-of-service contracting system. The services provided through the CDCC are supported through state funds and must operate for at least 10 hours per day. Eligibility requirements target children with household incomes below 75% SMI for state funding and/or children with household incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level for SSBG funds. CDCC programs, which must be licensed as a child care facility by the state, may operate under the contract held by an elementary or secondary school, nursery school, preschool, day care center, group child care home, family child care home, family resource center, Head Start program, or local or regional board of education.

School Readiness was founded in 1997 to expand access to early childhood programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. Financial support is available to 21 Priority School Readiness districts, as defined by legislation, and 46 Competitive School Readiness municipalities that have at least one school in which 40% or more of children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, or fall within the 50 lowest wealth-ranked towns in the state. Any family can apply for School Readiness spaces in designated Priority or Competitive municipalities; however, 60% of children enrolled in each municipality must meet the income guideline of at-or-below 75% of the SMI.

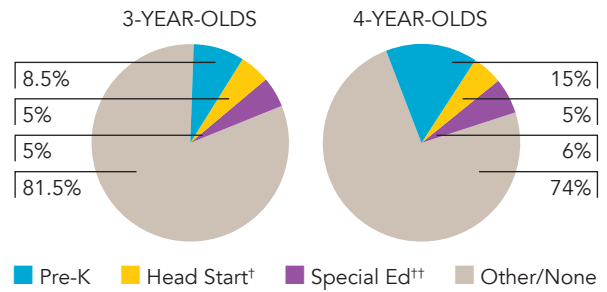
(continued)

CONNECTICUT STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS

| | |
|--|-------|
| Total state pre-K enrollment | 9,666 |
| Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 | 5,658 |
| Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 | 3,970 |
| State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4..... | 228 |

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

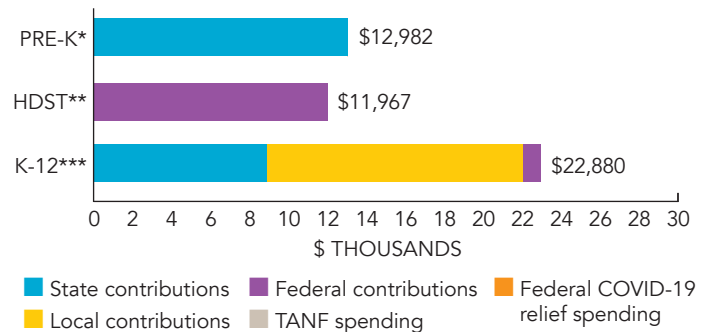


[†] Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

RESOURCES

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Total state pre-K spending | \$125,484,984 |
| State Head Start spending | \$4,676,217 |
| State spending per child enrolled | \$12,982 |
| All reported spending per child enrolled* | \$12,982 |

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 includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
 *** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

| ACCESS RANKINGS | | RESOURCE RANKINGS | | TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 4-YEAR-OLDS | 3-YEAR-OLDS | STATE SPENDING | ALL REPORTED SPENDING | |
| 32 | 9 | 7 | 16 | 5.1 |

Smart Start was created during the 2014 legislative session to expand publicly funded pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds in public school settings. Funding is distributed to local or regional boards of education through a competitive grant process.

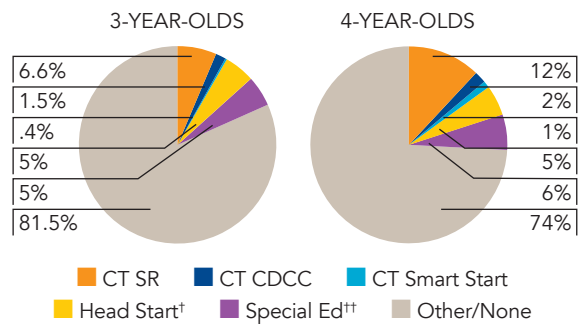
Connecticut's overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for CDCC, SR, and Smart Start, is depicted in the first two pages of the state profile. The third page focuses solely on CDCC, the fourth on SR, and the fifth on Smart Start.

CONNECTICUT CHILD DAY CARE CONTRACTS (CDCC)

ACCESS

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Total state pre-K enrollment..... | 1,570 |
| School districts that offer state program... | 28% (towns/communities) |
| Income requirement..... | 75% SMI |
| Minimum hours of operation..... | 10 hours/day; 5 days/week |
| Operating schedule..... | Full calendar year |

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

| POLICY | CT CDCC REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK? |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher degree | CDA + 12 EC credits | BA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher specialized training | CDA + 12 EC credits | Specializing in pre-K | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Assistant teacher degree | HSD | CDA or equivalent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff professional development | PD 1% of total work hours; PD plans (some teachers & assistants) | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maximum class size | 20 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff-child ratio | 1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, health & more; Referrals not required | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations (per Head Start and NAEYC accreditation requirements); Data used for program improvement | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES

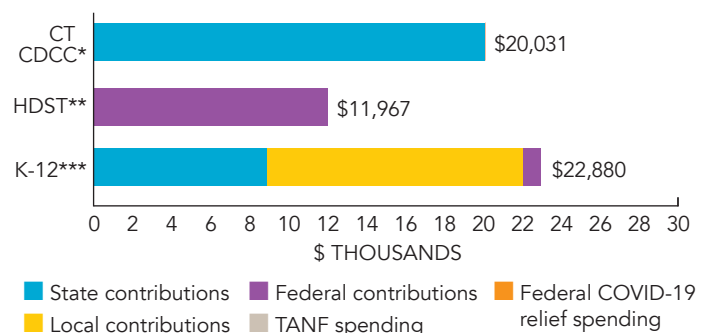
| | |
|---|--------------|
| Total state pre-K spending | \$31,448,312 |
| Local match required?..... | No |
| State spending per child enrolled | \$20,031 |
| All reported spending per child enrolled* | \$20,031 |

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

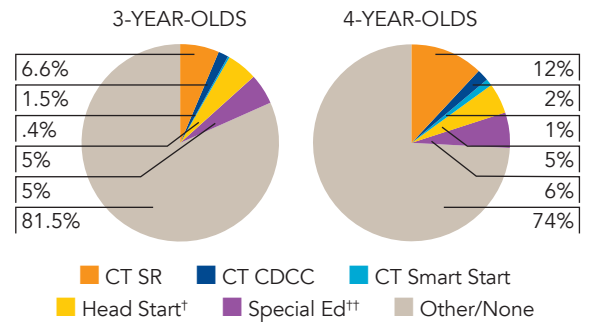


CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS (SR)

ACCESS

| | |
|---|--|
| Total state pre-K enrollment | 7,465 |
| School districts that offer state program ... | 40% (towns/communities) |
| Income requirement | 75% SMI or below for at least 60% of children in each municipality |
| Minimum hours of operation | 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week |
| Operating schedule | Determined locally |

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

| POLICY | CT SR REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK? |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher degree | CDA + 12 EC credits | BA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher specialized training | CDA + 12 EC credits | Specializing in pre-K | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Assistant teacher degree | HSD | CDA or equivalent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff professional development | PD 1% of total work hours; PD plans (some teachers & assistants) | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maximum class size | 20 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff-child ratio | 1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, health & more; Referrals not required | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations (per Head Start and NAEYC accreditation requirements); Data used for program improvement | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> |

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

5

RESOURCES

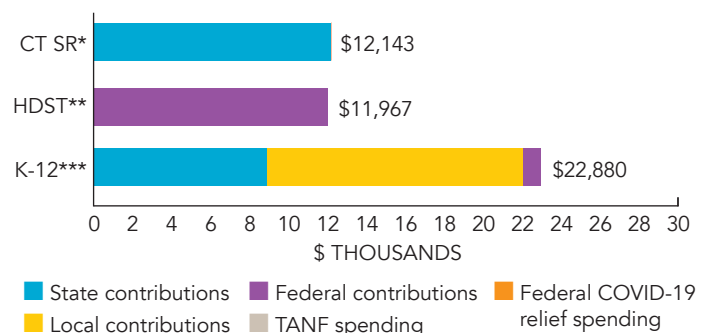
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|---|--------------|
| Total state pre-K spending | \$90,645,443 |
| Local match required? | No |
| State spending per child enrolled | \$12,143 |
| All reported spending per child enrolled* | \$12,143 |

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

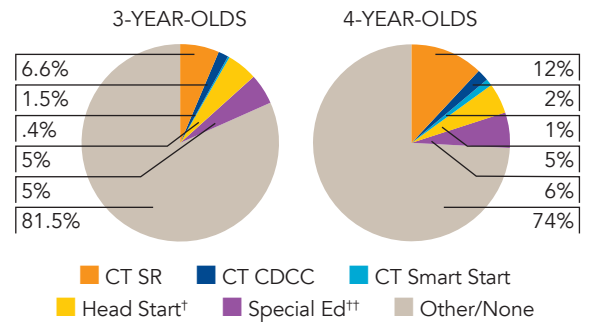


CONNECTICUT SMART START

ACCESS

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Total state pre-K enrollment..... | 631 |
| School districts that offer state program... | 14% (towns/communities) |
| Income requirement..... | No income requirement |
| Minimum hours of operation..... | 6 hours/day; 5 days/week |
| Operating schedule..... | School or academic year |

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

| POLICY | CT SMART START REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK? |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher degree | BA | BA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher specialized training | ECE, ECE SpEd, SpEd | Specializing in pre-K | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Assistant teacher degree | HSD | CDA or equivalent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff professional development | PD plans (teachers only) | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maximum class size | 18 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff-child ratio | 1:9 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, health & more; Referrals not required | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations (per Head Start and NAEYC accreditation requirements); Data used for program improvement | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total state pre-K spending | \$3,391,229 |
| Local match required?..... | No |
| State spending per child enrolled | \$5,374 |
| All reported spending per child enrolled* | \$5,374 |

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

