

NO PROGRAM

The state of Indiana does not offer a state-funded preschool program according to definitions used in this report. However, Indiana operates a preschool program with the goal of expanding enrollment of low-income 4-year-old children in high-quality early childhood education. The On My Way Pre-K program was signed into law in 2014 to provide grants to eligible, low-income 4-year-old children for qualified early education services. Prior to that, in 2013, the Indiana General Assembly enacted the Early Education Matching Grant (EEMG). EEMG was eventually consolidated with On My Way Pre-K in 2018, adding additional sites and counties to the program. Services may be delivered via public schools, licensed or registered childcare programs who have achieved Level 3 or Level 4 in Paths to QUALITY™, or via accredited private schools.

In 2020-21, On My Way Pre-K supported children with \$4.6 million in state funding, over \$243,000 in local county match funds, as well as \$7.4 million in federal funding. The 2020-2021 pre-K year continued to meet enrollment challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and state lock downs at the normal time of recruitment and enrollment.

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, eligibility for On My Way Pre-K was targeted towards low-income families who were working and/or attending an accredited or certified education or training program, allowing these grants to be co-funded, and give families full year experiences through the summer prior to kindergarten. Under current legislation, all pre-K providers must be eligible to accept CCDF funding, providing families who are eligible with a guaranteed 53-week subsidy period and continuity of care for their child if needed before and after kindergarten if the family remains eligible at reauthorization. Beginning in 2020, the Indiana General Assembly changed eligibility criteria by adding families in higher federal poverty income levels and/or families receiving only SSI or SSDI income. In 2020-2021, 376 of these families received a maximum 46 weeks of eligibility during the pre-K year at the same high quality programs with their vouchers fully funded with state funds and county matching dollars.

Indiana recently announced the results of a Purdue University longitudinal study of the preschool children supported by these grants in years one and two, as well as a control group, following children through third grade. [The study results](#) demonstrated that children who attended the On My Way Pre-K program had stronger school readiness, language and literacy skills than their peers with similar family incomes who attended lower quality childcare or prekindergarten programs.

Additionally, On My Way Pre-K children from the 2020-2021 school year matched up positively compared to national norms established for all prekindergarten children in the first annual Kindergarten Readiness Indicators assessment, conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. Study results are available [here](#).

On My Way Pre-K has stimulated expansion of the number of Level 3 and Level 4 high-quality programs in Indiana, affecting not only the 4-year-old children enrolled with state funding, but all other children enrolled in those programs. Together, On My Way Pre-K and EEMG have not only increased the number of high-quality slots in Indiana for low-income children who now have an opportunity to attend pre-K and to be better prepared for kindergarten, but there has also been a 92% increase in high quality early care and education programs for all children statewide since the inception of these programs.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
No Program	

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

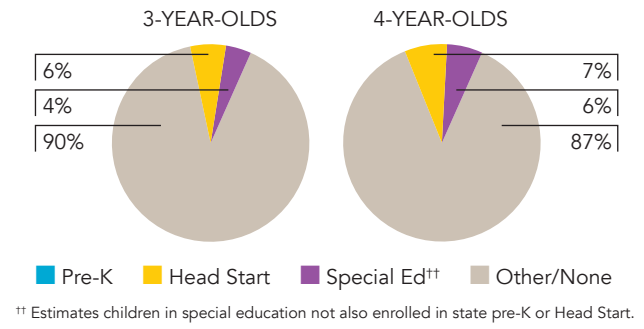
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
No Program

INDIANA

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	0
School districts that offer state program	NA
Income requirement	NA
Minimum hours of operation	NA
Operating schedule	NA
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,908
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	10,789
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	3

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

NO PROGRAM

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$0
Local match required?	NA
State Head Start spending	Not reported
State spending per child enrolled	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$0

* 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

