

New Hampshire

NO PROGRAM

New Hampshire does not have a state-funded pre-K program, as defined in this report. However, the state provides a mixed-delivery system to support early childhood education in local communities. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) licenses early childhood programs and administers preschool scholarships through its child-care assistance program for low-income families. The Department of Education (DOE) oversees early childhood special education programming and progress monitoring of IDEA Part B funded preschool programs. New Hampshire school districts also use Title I funds and local funds to implement voluntary preschool programs in public schools which provide pre-K to approximately 25% of 4-year-olds in New Hampshire. Also, NH's Community Action Programs serve 1,563 children before school entry through Head Start and Early Head Start.

DOE issues both early childhood education and early childhood special education teacher licensure endorsements for nursery through grade three. DHHS issues voluntary endorsements and credentials for professionals serving young children and their families through the New Hampshire Early Childhood and After School Professional Development System.

The New Hampshire Early Learning Guidelines were introduced in 2005 and address development and learning for children birth through age 5. The guidelines cover multiple domains including approaches to learning, communication and literacy development, social and emotional development, physical development, creative expression and aesthetic development, and health and safety. The guidelines are aligned with New Hampshire's academic standards, as well as New Hampshire Kindergarten Readiness Indicators. The state's new Early Learning Standards, released in 2015, align with the New Hampshire College and Career Ready Standards, by expanding to include emergent literacy, early numeracy, and science and social studies.

DHHS's Child Development Bureau administers New Hampshire's QRIS, which is currently under revision. Categories of standards in the proposed revision include: Curriculum, Environment, and Assessment; Engaging Families and Communities as Partners; Early Childhood Administrator and Educator Qualifications; and Measured Standards of Environmental Quality and Teacher-Child Interactions using the ERS and CLASS, respectively.

New Hampshire received two Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five (PDG B-5): a \$3.8M planning grant followed by a \$26.8M renewal to lead a collaborative effort between the University of New Hampshire, DOE and DHHS, the Governor's Early Childhood Council, and New Hampshire's early childhood advocates and practitioners, to create a collective vision for quality early childhood care and education to ensure that all children and families of New Hampshire are healthy, learning and thriving. This grant provides New Hampshire the much-needed opportunity to better understand the current child and family system and use those data to strengthen it, better address the needs of vulnerable young children and their families, and help build a strong foundation to improve the outcomes for our children, families, schools and communities.

Additionally, in January 2021 Governor Sununu established the Governor's Council for Thriving Children by Executive Order¹ to ensure coordination across an influx of federal funds, including the PDG B-5, and state programs focused on children and families. The Council will make recommendations to strengthening New Hampshire's child and family well-being system. The Council is co-led by the DOE and DHHS in collaboration with the Governor's office and the University of New Hampshire.

The Council, with input across stakeholders including parents, grandparents, legislators, professionals, businesses, local/regional coalitions, state agency staff and higher education will create an effective, efficient, and evidence informed child and family wellbeing system. The diverse membership of the Council will bring New Hampshire innovative ideas, steeped in research and data, to ensure that we all work together to connect families to opportunities, leveling the playing field for all New Hampshire children and families.

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

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

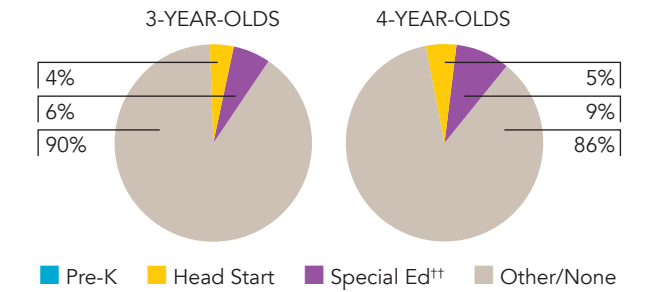
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
No Program

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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	2,079
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	1,146
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



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

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

NO PROGRAM

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$0
Local match required?	NA
State Head Start spending	\$0
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

