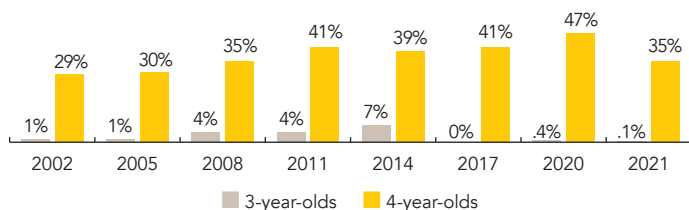
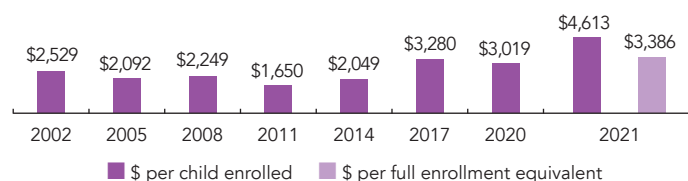


South Carolina

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, South Carolina preschool enrolled 21,293 children, a decrease of 7,714 children from the prior year. State spending totaled \$90,278,353 and also included \$7,938,359 in federal relief, up \$10,639,856 (12%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$4,613 in 2020-2021, up \$1,593 from 2019-2020, adjusted for inflation. South Carolina met 7 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

There was a mix of in-person and remote instruction when the 2020-2021 school year began but all public school programs were physically open by the end of the school year and in Fall 2021. First Steps 4K private classrooms were fully open for the entire 2020-2021 term. The State used COVID-19-relief funding to expand the school day and year and serve additional children. Beginning in 2021-2022, the program offered a new summer program for incoming or continuing preschoolers and incoming kindergartners. For 2021-2022 only, a state proviso allowed students who were eligible for the Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) for the previous school year, but did not participate due to COVID-19 concerns, to enroll in CERDEP rather than kindergarten.

As of July 2021, all districts can offer CERDEP for income-eligible students. Previously, only districts meeting the law's poverty threshold were eligible; now, any district with at least one school with 60% or more students in poverty may operate CERDEP classrooms. First Steps 4K received additional funds to offer a higher per pupil reimbursement rate to those in the state's quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) with a B or above rating, and non-profit independent schools may now be approved First Steps 4K providers. The 2021 state budget includes a net increase of \$14 million for 4K services (\$18 million increase in CERDEP funding, and a \$4 million reduction in EIA 4K funding).

BACKGROUND

South Carolina funds two preschool programs: the Education Improvement Act Child Development Program (EIA 4K) and the public/private Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP). Both programs are delivered in public school settings via the South Carolina Department of Education's Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL). CERDEP is co-administered in private preschool settings by South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness (First Steps 4K), the state's school readiness initiative.

EIA 4K, initiated in 1984, is funded as part of a one-cent sales tax supporting public education projects. Eligibility for EIA 4K is prioritized by law for children eligible for FRPL or Medicaid and allows for consideration of children with documented developmental delays. EIA 4K districts may then set their own eligibility criteria from a state-specified list of risk factors. State funding is allocated to districts by OELL using a formula according to the number of kindergarten students who qualify for FRPL in each district. School districts now provide full-day programs, with the exception of a few continuing to offer half-day programs.

CERDEP, originally called the Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP), was created as a pilot program in 2006 in response to Abbeville County School District, et. al. v. South Carolina, a lawsuit initiated by rural school districts regarding school equity funding, the program was codified in 2014 along with the state's Read to Succeed legislation (Act 284).

To monitor quality, OELL conducts visits including an evaluation based on the Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation (ELLCO) used to provide feedback and support to ensure classrooms are language- and literacy-rich. Some programs receive additional monitoring, which includes a fidelity verification measuring curriculum implementation. Feedback is provided to the teacher, school administrator, and/or the CERDEP district liaison/reading coach. First Steps 4K Coaches visit classrooms twice monthly to support quality classroom assessment, feedback, and goals using The Fidelity Tool by Teaching Strategies and LearnERS, a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Coaching Framework.

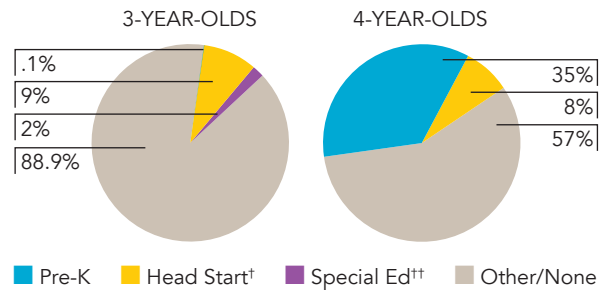
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
12	33	38	42	7

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILD EARLY READING DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM AND EIA/4K

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	21,293
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	6.5 hours/day; EIA 4K: 4 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	4,354
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,876
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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	SC PRE-K 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 (public); AA (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Immunizations, developmental; Referrals	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$98,216,712
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,613
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,981

* 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

