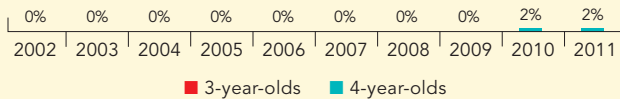
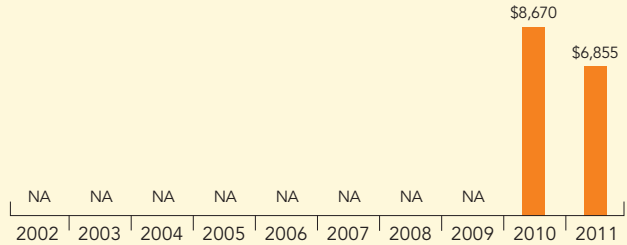


# Alaska

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2011 DOLLARS)



The Alaska Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Project (AP3) started in the 2009-2010 school year. The program serves 4-year-old children in six school districts through competitive grants. Grantees operate half-day preschool programs and also provide outreach to families who choose to provide in-home care for preschoolers. While funding is awarded to public schools, grantees can subcontract with Head Start, private child care, family child care, and faith-based settings. Most programs operate in blended Head Start and public school programs.

Program eligibility requirements are similar to the federal Head Start guidelines. Eligible children are from families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty levels, though, if space allows, programs may take a maximum of 35 percent of children from families between 100 and 130 percent of the federal poverty level. The AP3 program meets all 10 of NIEER’s quality standards benchmarks, which include high-quality standards for teacher credentials, staff-child ratios, and class sizes.

In the 2011-2012 school year, the pre-K program is transitioning from pilot status with a scheduled funding change and re-competition for state grants in fiscal year 2013. The state is piloting use of the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment three times per year in two-thirds of the programs in the 2011-2012 school year and plans to require its use for all grantees in the new competition.

Alaska has offered a supplement to federally recognized Head Start programs since the 1980s. The goal of this funding is to improve program quality through professional development and school readiness activities. These funds also provide access to additional children and families whenever possible. In the 2010-2011 school year, state funding through Alaska’s Head Start supplement totaled \$7.2 million.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
37	None Served

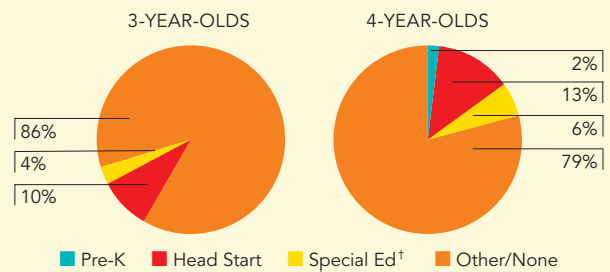
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
5	11

# ALASKA PILOT PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	.....248
School districts that offer state program	.....11%
Income requirement	.....100% FPL <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation	.....3 to 5 hours/day, 4 or 5 days/week <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule	.....Academic year
Special education enrollment	.....1,220
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	.....2,442
State-funded Head Start enrollment	.....0

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



<sup>†</sup> This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	.....Comprehensive	.....Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	.....BA <sup>3</sup>	.....BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	.....ECE endorsement <sup>3</sup>	.....Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	.....AA <sup>3</sup>	.....CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	.....6 credit hours/5 years	.....At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		.....20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	.....NA		
4-year-olds	.....20		
Staff-child ratio		.....1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	.....NA		
4-year-olds	.....1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	.....Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services <sup>4</sup>	.....Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	.....Breakfast or lunch and one snack	.....At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	.....Site visits and other monitoring	.....Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

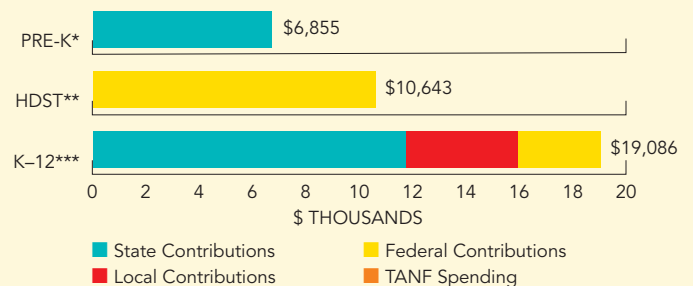
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

10

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	.....\$1,700,000
Local match required?	.....No
State Head Start spending	.....\$7,292,600 <sup>5</sup>
State spending per child enrolled	.....\$6,855
All reported spending per child enrolled*	.....\$6,855

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 for the 2010-2011 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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

Data are for the '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Mirroring federal Head Start guidelines, up to 35 percent of enrollment may be children whose family incomes are between 100 and 130 percent FPL after priority is given to children at or below 100 percent FPL.

<sup>2</sup> All programs are part-day and must operate for at least 3 hours per day, but cannot operate for more than 5 hours per day. Programs operate for 4 or 5 days per week, for a minimum of 14 hours per week, though the actual schedule is determined locally.

<sup>3</sup> Teachers must be state certified with a BA in ECE or a related field or specialized training in a related field, and assistant teachers must have an AA in ECE or a related field.

<sup>4</sup> All programs follow state pre-elementary statutes and regulations. School districts with Head Start programs must follow federal Head Start regulations. Support services include parenting support or training, health services for children, and nutrition information.

<sup>5</sup> Alaska's state Head Start funds are used to enhance Head Start services and improve quality.