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West Virginia Early Childhood Education: Transforming the Workforce

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W.Va. Early Childhood Education: *Collaboration and the Workforce*

West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2525 – *West Virginia's Universal Access to a Quality Early Education System*

- W. Va. Code §18-5-44 passed in 2002, which required the state to expand access to preschool education programs, making **voluntary** prekindergarten available to **all** 4 year old children by 2012-13.
- In order to support counties in the effort to maximize existing resources, 50% of the classrooms must be collaborative with community partners. By 2015-16, 81% of the classrooms were in collaboration with community partners, including childcare centers and Head Start programs.
- Funding for Universal Pre-K is part of the State School Aid Funding Formula. As enrollment increases, funding to implement increases. FY2016 Total State Aid funding generated by Pre-k was over 93 million dollars (*in addition to Federal Head Start and Childcare funding*).

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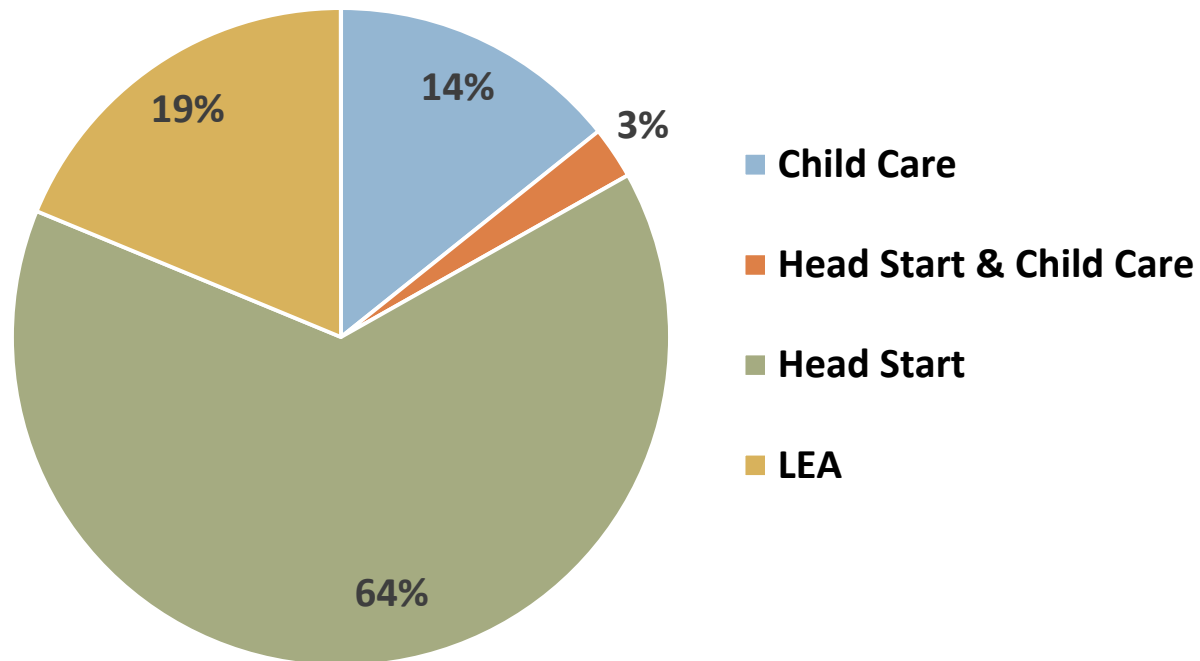
West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2525 *State to Local Structures and Supports*

- WVBE/WVDE and WVDHHR – created the state **Pre-K Steering Team**
- Local **county collaborative teams** required for key programmatic design and pre-k decision making (*2003-2013 tied to state aid dollars*)
- As time passed, strengthened quality indicators, such as teacher/assistant teacher credentials, professional development, comprehensive data management, meals – continuous quality improvement of collaborative program oversight and resource management.



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The statewide collaboration rate is 81%.



[*WVDE Early Learning Annual Report 2016*](#)

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- **All** four-year-olds, as well as three-year-olds with an IEP have access to a quality pre-k program.
- The statewide participation rate for 2015-16 was 75%.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
5	7

From the National Institute for Early Education Research – The State of Preschool 2015

[*WVDE Early Learning Annual Report 2016*](#)

W.Va. Early Childhood Education: Collaboration and the Workforce

NIEER Quality Standards Checklist	Benchmarks Met in West Virginia		Does Requirement Meet Benchmark?
	State Pre-K Requirement	Benchmark	2015-2016
1 -Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	✓
2 -Teacher degree	BA ²		✓
3 -Teacher specialized training	EC Endorsement, Preschool Special Needs (public); Community Program Permanent Authorization	Specializing in Pre-K	✓
4 -Assistant teacher degree	HSD ⁴	CDA or equivalent	✓
5 -Teacher in-service	15 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	✓
6 -Maximum class size		20 or lower	✓
	3-year-olds 20 4-year-olds 20		
7 -Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	✓
	3-year-olds 1:10 4-year-olds 1:10		
8 -Screening/referral and support services	Vision; hearing; health, dental	Vision, hearing, health, and at least 1 support service.	✓
9 –Meals	Depends on length of program day	At least 1/day	✓
10 –Monitoring	Site visits & other monitoring	Site visits	✓
Benchmarks Met			10

From the National Institute for Early Education Research – The State of Preschool 2015

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