SHORTCHANGED

PRELIMINARY DATA

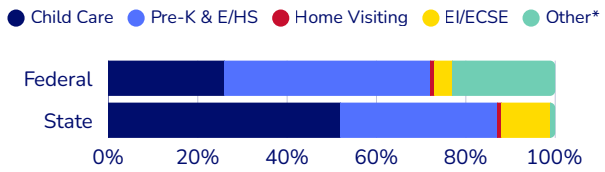
Illinois 2024

For every dollar spent on school-aged students in Illinois, $0.17 was spent on infants and toddlers, and $0.24 on preschool-aged children.

Illinois invested over **$2.9 billion** in early care and education in 2024. Of these investments in birth to kindergarten-entry:

- **43%** supported infants and toddlers, and **57%** supported children aged three to kindergarten-entry.
- **35%** came from federal sources, and **65%** came from state funds.

ECE Spending by Program Type

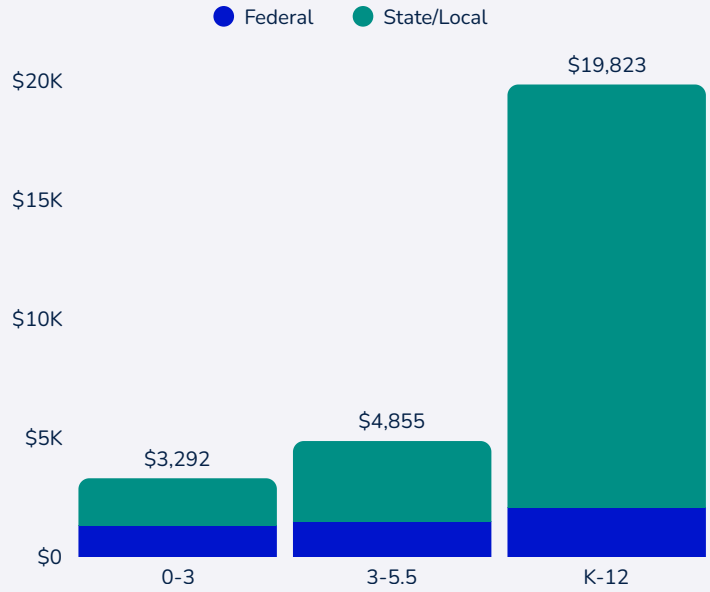


Between 2023 and 2024, Illinois increased state-specific spending on children from birth through kindergarten-entry by more than $267 million.

In 2024, Illinois supported early care and education through dedicated programs such as Illinois Preschool for All and the Child Care Assistance Program. Continued investments, such as a funding increase for the Early Childhood Block Grant, will be reflected in future reports.

**Other federal funding includes the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS).*

Per Capita Spending by Age Group



Illinois's ECE Investment Rankings

Rankings reflect state/local per capita investment in ECE compared to state/local per capita investment in K-12.

#07 /50 in 0-5.5

#04 /50 in 0-3

#09 /50 in 3-5.5

Rankings are subject to change as new data becomes available.

Children in Illinois by Age Group

0-3	3-5.5	School-Aged
382k	343k	2.0M

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Illinois 2024

Total Funding by Spending Category and Age

Category	Nationally Reported Federal Dollars	State and Local Dollars	Nationally Reported Federal + State Dollars			
			0- 3	3-5.5	K-12	Total
Child Care	$414,500,372	$1,508,905,300	$657,182,430	$597,088,779	$669,134,463	$1,923,405,672
State Preschool/ Early Education	$-	$671,073,063	$-	$671,073,063	$-	$671,073,063
Home Visiting/ Parent Education	$11,216,666	$21,614,698	$28,234,973	$4,596,391	$-	$32,831,364
Early Intervention/ PreK Special Ed	$38,104,624	$209,827,730	$228,523,093	$19,409,261	$-	$247,932,354
Other 0 to 3 Expenditures	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
Other 3 to 5.5 Expenditures	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
Other 0 to 5.5 Expenditures	$-	$20,272,101	$10,686,814	$9,585,287	$-	$20,272,101
K - 12 Expenditures	$4,018,807,854	$35,832,513,958	$-	$-	$39,851,321,812	$39,851,321,812
Other Federal Funding Streams	$775,108,237	$-	$335,757,509	$363,624,761	$75,725,966	$775,108,237
Total	$5,257,737,753	$38,264,206,850	$1,260,384,819	$1,665,377,542	$40,596,182,241	$43,521,944,603

Help us get this right.

We rely on partners and state experts to ensure our data is accurate. If something here needs a correction, please reach out: **svanvalkenburgh@niu.edu**

Scan or click the QR code to learn more about The Shortchanged Project.

Center for Early Learning Funding Equity
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY