SHORTCHANGED

PRELIMINARY DATA

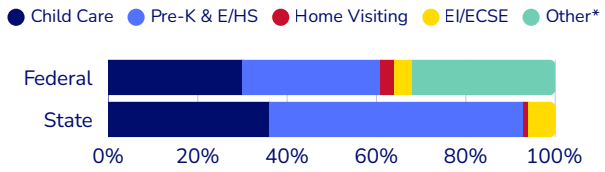
New Jersey 2024

For every dollar spent on school-aged students in New Jersey, $0.11 was spent on infants and toddlers, and $0.27 on preschool-aged children.

New Jersey invested over **$2.6 billion** in early care and education in 2024. Of these investments in birth to kindergarten-entry:

- **32%** supported infants and toddlers, and **68%** supported children aged three to kindergarten-entry.
- **24%** came from federal sources, and **76%** came from state funds.

ECE Spending by Program Type

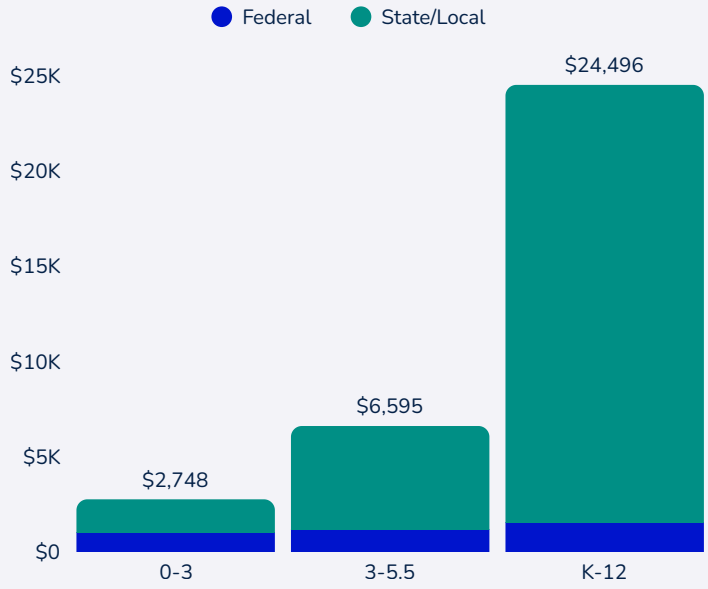


Between 2023 and 2024, New Jersey increased state-specific spending on children from birth through kindergarten-entry by more than $240 million.

In 2024, New Jersey supported early care and education through dedicated programs such as Work First New Jersey Child Care and the New Jersey Preschool Expansion Program. Continued investments, such as expansions to the state preschool program, 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



New Jersey's ECE Investment Rankings

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

#06 /50 **in 0-5.5**

#11 /50 **in 0-3**

#06 /50 **in 3-5.5**

Rankings are subject to change as new data becomes available.

Children in New Jersey by Age Group

0-3	3-5.5	School-Aged
302k	273k	1.5M

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New Jersey 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	$260,028,848	$996,039,048	$492,989,883	$415,093,787	$347,984,226	$1,256,067,896
State Preschool/ Early Education	$-	$1,108,123,000	$-	$1,108,123,000	$-	$1,108,123,000
Home Visiting/ Parent Education	$15,479,429	$14,165,000	$25,494,209	$4,150,220	$-	$29,644,429
Early Intervention/ PreK Special Ed	$26,271,297	$114,726,000	$128,473,797	$12,523,500	$-	$140,997,297
Other 0 to 3 Expenditures	$-	$6,722,000	$6,722,000	$-	$-	$6,722,000
Other 3 to 5.5 Expenditures	$-	$51,023,727	$-	$51,023,727	$-	$51,023,727
Other 0 to 5.5 Expenditures	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
K - 12 Expenditures	$2,252,991,179	$34,736,187,821	$-	$-	$36,989,179,000	$36,989,179,000
Other Federal Funding Streams	$444,440,080	$-	$180,611,683	$211,765,686	$52,062,711	$444,440,080
Total	$2,999,210,833	$37,026,986,596	$834,291,572	$1,802,679,921	$37,389,225,936	$40,026,197,429

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