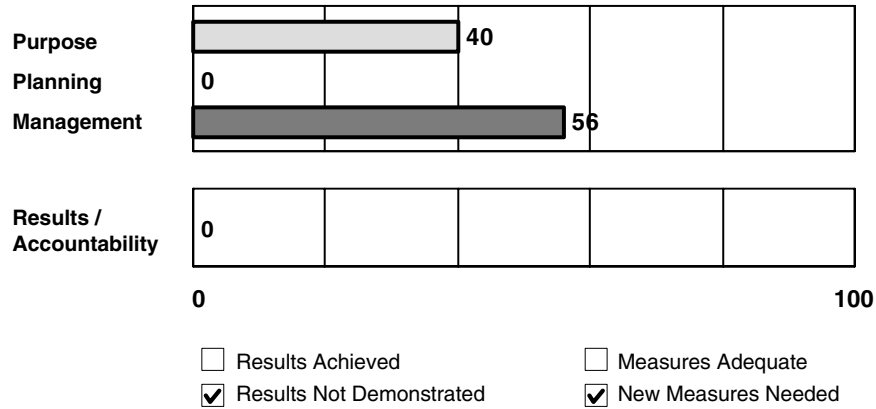


Program: IDEA Preschool Grants

Agency: Department of Education

Bureau: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

| Measure | Year | Target | Actual |
|---|------|--------|--------|
| Long-term and Annual Measure: Percentage of preschool children receiving special education and related services who have readiness skills when they reach kindergarten (Proposed measure with no data available; targets under development) | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Long-term and Annual Measure: Targets under development | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Long-term and Annual Measure: Targets under development | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Rating: Results Not Demonstrated

Program Type: Block / Formula Grants

Program Summary:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Preschool Grants program provides grants to states to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities aged 3-5.

The PART assessment found:

1. The Department of Education has no performance data on preschool children with disabilities who are served under this program. While an upcoming longitudinal study should provide some information on child outcomes, the results of this study are several years away, and will not provide data on program effectiveness or ongoing data on results.
2. The program has no long term performance goals or annual performance data. Only about half of the states have established annual performance goals for their IDEA preschool programs, or are in the process establishing these goals.
3. The program only supplements existing funding provided under the IDEA Grants to States program (see related PART summary), which covers children with disabilities aged 3-21. IDEA Preschool Grants have no separate programmatic requirements for preschool children with disabilities, or incentives distinct from IDEA Grants to States. While the initial purpose of the Preschool Grants program was to provide a financial incentive for states to serve preschool children, this incentive is no longer necessary because all states now serve preschool children, and funding is provided through IDEA Grants to States.
4. The Department does not collaborate as well as it could with some other federal programs, such as Head Start and Medicaid.

To address these findings, the Department will:

1. Maintain federal funding at last year's level until the Administration has had a chance to work with Congress on the IDEA reauthorization, which should increase state and school accountability for having a real impact on children. In this reauthorization, the Administration will work with Congress to determine how best to serve preschool children with disabilities under the Act.
2. Develop long term performance goals, and annual goals for performance, for preschool children with disabilities.
3. Improve collaboration with other federal programs.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

| 2002 Actual | 2003 Estimate | 2004 Estimate |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 390 | 390 | 390 |