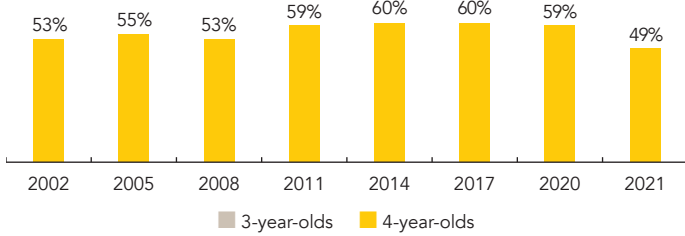
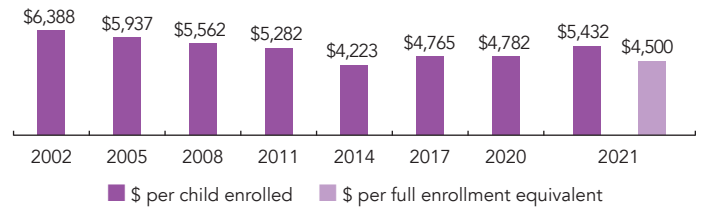


Georgia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2021 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

During the 2020-2021 school year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued, Georgia preschool enrolled 66,554 children, a decrease of 13,774 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$361,514,563 down \$22,597,007 (6%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$5,432 in 2020-2021, up \$650 from 2019-2020, adjusted for inflation. Georgia met 8 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

Enrollment in Georgia's Pre-K Program for the 2020-2021 school year was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with programs serving approximately 13,800 fewer students. Instruction was offered through traditional/in-person, full distance/virtual, and hybrid models. Lead and assistant teachers were paid a \$1,000 bonus from Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funds.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students' educational and social and emotional experiences this school year, Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) expanded the Georgia's Pre-K Summer Transition Program. An additional 160 Rising Kindergarten classes were awarded to serve more children in a face-to-face setting before they enter kindergarten in the fall. Additionally, the income eligibility requirement was suspended for summer 2021 to allow all age-eligible children to participate. DECAL served 3,792 children in the Rising Kindergarten program this summer.

During the 2021-2022 school year instruction is being offered in-person. Each lead and assistant teacher will receive two \$1,000 bonuses in the 2021-2022 school year to support teacher retention.

BACKGROUND

Georgia's Pre-K Program launched in 1992 as a small pilot program and expanded in 1995 to become the nation's first state-funded universal preschool program for 4-year-olds. State lottery revenues generate funding for the program, which is provided in a variety of settings, including public schools, private child-care centers, faith-based organizations, Head Start agencies, state colleges and universities, and military facilities.

In 2011, the Georgia General Assembly authorized an evaluation of Georgia's Pre-K Program. In response to the General Assembly, DECAL commissioned national experts at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to conduct a series of studies to measure the impact of our state's nationally renowned Pre-K program. Reports and summaries from the studies are available here: <http://decals.ga.gov/BftS/EvaluationGAPreKProgram.aspx>.

Reports include recent results from the Pre-K Longitudinal Study designed to examine the short- and long-term learning outcomes for children who attended Georgia's Pre-K as well as the quality of their preschool and early elementary school experiences. The report from the fifth year of the study was issued in January 2021. The final report with findings through the fourth grade will be issued in spring 2022.

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

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
27	35

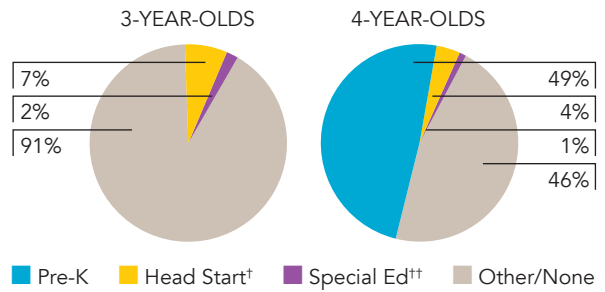
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
8

GEORGIA'S PRE-K PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	66,554
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation	6.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	8,274
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	18,818
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	GA PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	22 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:11 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.



RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$361,514,563
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,432
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$5,432

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
 ** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
 *** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

