Mississippi does not have a state-funded pre-K program, but in late 2008 it launched Mississippi Building Blocks (MBB), a four-year program designed to provide effective support to existing child care centers. The aim is to improve school readiness skills for children in licensed child care centers throughout the state, including centers who currently serve families with children that qualify for CCDF or TANF funding.

Mississippi Building Blocks also aims to increase the number of child care centers in the Mississippi Child Care Quality Step Systems program (MCCQSS). The state allocated $3 million in fiscal year 2009 to expand the voluntary pilot MCCQSS program statewide and to increase Resource and Referral (R&R) funding. In addition, in an effort to help existing licensed child care centers, families, and children, MBB provides business advice to center directors, materials for classrooms, parenting classes for participating families, and teacher mentoring.

In 2010, Mississippi established a special commission made up of business leaders and education experts to study the Mississippi Building Blocks program as a basis for establishing a statewide model. Results of the first year of the study have been released and several policy recommendations have emerged from the findings. A second year of the study using the same research design is currently underway.
access

Total state program enrollment ....................................................0
School districts that offer state program .....................................NA
Income requirement .................................................................NA
Hours of operation .................................................................NA
Operating schedule ...............................................................NA
Special education enrollment ...................................................4,736
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ...................................25,548
State-funded Head Start enrollment .........................................0

Quality standards checklist

Resources

Total state pre-K spending ......................................................$0
Local match required? ..............................................................NA
State spending per child enrolled ............................................$0
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................$0

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources
  that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding
  from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating
  expenditures.
Data are for the ‘09-’10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

Spending per child enrolled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>State Contributions</th>
<th>Federal Contributions</th>
<th>Local Contributions</th>
<th>TANF Spending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td></td>
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<td>$7,026</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-12***</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$8,601</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State pre-K and Head Start enrollment as percentage of total population

3-year-olds

- Pre-K: 17%
- Head Start: 11%
- Special Ed†: 26%

4-year-olds

- Pre-K: 34%
- Head Start: 3%
- Special Ed†: 63%

† This is an estimate of children in special education
  who are not enrolled in Head Start.