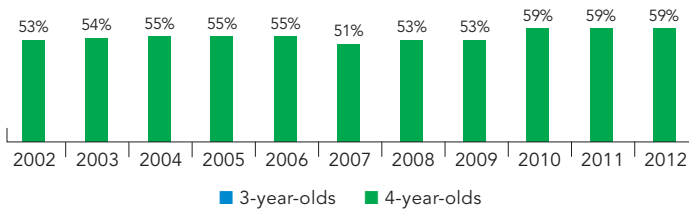
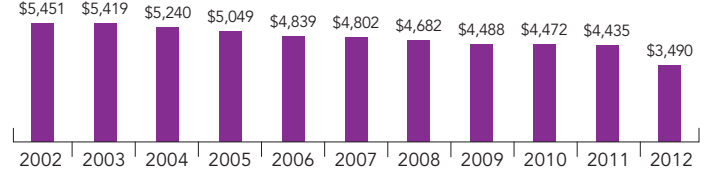


Georgia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2012 DOLLARS)



Established in 1993, Georgia's Pre-K program became the nation's first universal preschool program for 4-year-olds in 1995. The program is funded by state lottery revenues and is available in a variety of settings, including Head Start agencies, public schools, private child care centers, faith-based organizations, state colleges and universities, and military facilities.

All programs must follow the Bright from the Start Pre-K Operating Guidelines. Programs must be based on Georgia's Pre-K Content Standards, which are aligned with the Georgia Early Learning standards for birth through age 3 as well as the Georgia Performance Standards for kindergarten. Implementation of these quality standards are monitored by the state through on-site monitoring. In the 2010-2011 school year, the state began using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) to further monitor program quality.

During the 2006-2007 school year, the state implemented the Georgia Pre-K Child Assessment Program, based on the Work Sampling System. Teachers were trained on how to use this assessment to document children's progress, individualize instruction, and provide parents with two progress reports during the year. These assessment efforts facilitate coordination between pre-K and the K-16 system. In the 2008-2009 school year, an online version of the Child Assessment program was piloted, which included assigning Georgia Testing IDs to pre-K students. During the 2011-2012 school year, 2,070 classes participated in the Work Sampling Online System. The bilingual preschool program, started in the 2009-2010 year and expanded during the 2010-2011 year, offers several dual-language programs throughout the state though there was no expansion of the dual-language program in the 2011-2012 school year. Georgia is revising its professional development requirements in response to a recent evaluation conducted by the FPG Child Development Institute at UNC Chapel Hill.

Georgia has seen a number of changes to their quality standards benchmarks over the last few years. As of the 2008-2009 program year, assistant teachers are required to have a minimum of a CDA. In the 2010-2011 school year, program regulations increased to require at least a bachelor's degree for lead teachers, with a waiver process to help current teachers transition to this new requirement. However, Georgia's Pre-K Program underwent a number of changes in the 2011-2012 school year in response to budgetary constraints. Maximum class size is now set at 22 students, and a teacher-student ratio of 1-11 is allowed, resulting in the loss of two NIEER benchmarks. The program year was also cut by 20 days, though 10 of these days were added back in for the 2012-2013 school year and 10 additional days are proposed to be added back in for the 2013-2014 school year. The state also implemented a cap of Training and Experience (T & E) supplemental pay for certified teachers in public schools, leading to increased teacher turnover.

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

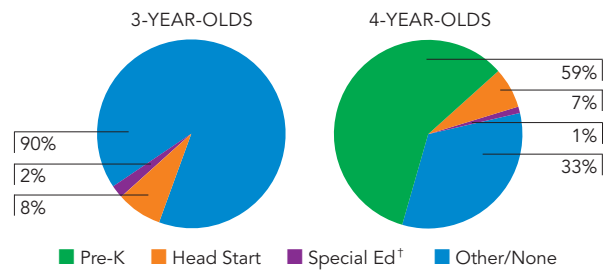
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
25	31

GEORGIA'S PRE-K PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	82,868
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement.....	None
Hours of operation	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,561
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4	22,190
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET </div>
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher degree	BA ¹	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher specialized training	Elementary, SpEd General Curriculum Consulative/ECE, ECE, Birth-Five, SpEd Preschool, Birth-Five Endorsement (public and nonpublic) ¹	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Assistant teacher degree.....	CDA	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Maximum class size	20 or lower	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds	NA			
4-year-olds	22 ²			
Staff-child ratio	1:10 or better	1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds	NA			
4-year-olds	1:11 ²			
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health, dental; and support services ³	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Meals	Lunch	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

RESOURCES

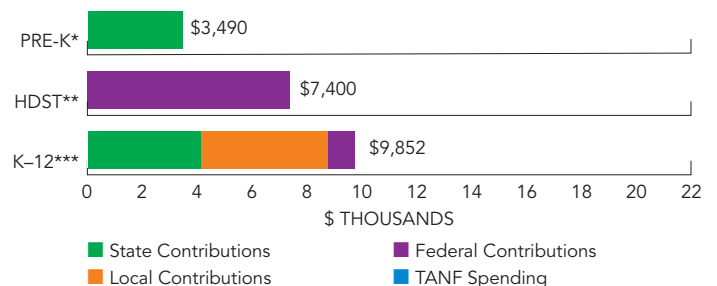
Total state pre-K spending	\$289,222,657
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,490
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$3,490

* 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 2011-2012 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ As of the 2010-2011 year, all newly hired teachers must have a BA in all settings. Teachers already working with an AA will receive waivers, though they must demonstrate continual progress toward a BA and may not transfer to another position.

² Maximum class size and teacher-to-student ratio were changed as of the 2011-2012 school year as a result of budget constraints, and will continue through at least the 2013-2014 school year. These no longer meet NIEER's quality standard benchmark.

³ Blended Pre-K Program/Head Start classrooms are required to have developmental screenings as well. All Georgia's Pre-K programs are required to ask parents if their child has received his/her developmental health screening, and provide a referral and appropriate follow-up to those children who have not. Children who are eligible for Medicaid or PeachCare (Georgia's SCHIP's program) are required to have a 4-year-old developmental screening. Support services include annual parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities, nutrition information, referral for social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and other locally determined support services.