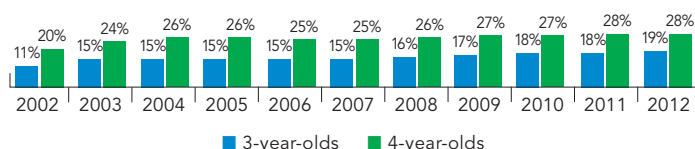


# New Jersey

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2012 DOLLARS)



The largest and most intensive of New Jersey’s three state-funded preschool programs (formerly known as the Abbott Preschool Program) was established as the result of a 1998 New Jersey Supreme Court decision and served 43,543 children in 35 school districts during the 2011-2012 school year. Eligible districts are funded by the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) to provide the program to all resident 3- and 4-year-olds who wish to enroll. Districts may contract with private child care centers or Head Start programs that meet state standards to provide services. The state Department of Human Services (DHS) provides supplemental child care subsidy funds for Abbott districts to offer extended-day and extended-year services to families; however, changes in DHS eligibility requirements have resulted in fewer children receiving wrap-around services and a reduced number of programs offering the wrap-around option. A “hold harmless” clause in the state’s school funding formula prevents former Abbott districts from receiving preschool aid from DOE lower than the 2008-2009 levels after which the school funding formula went into effect. Formal evaluations of process quality and program impact/child outcomes for the former Abbott program were completed in 2011.

A second state-funded preschool initiative, formerly known as the Non-Abbott Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA), is required only in districts where 20 to 40 percent of children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch services. The number of districts offering this program remained at 96 during the 2011-2012 school year. These ECPA districts may contract with Head Start or private providers to offer services. Enrollment in ECPA programs increased slightly during the 2011-2012 school year to 7,485 students despite a decrease in funding of approximately \$5 million.

A third program formerly known as The Early Launch to Learning Initiative (ELLI) was established in 2004 as part of New Jersey’s efforts to provide access to high-quality prekindergarten education to all of the state’s low-income 4-year-olds. All non-Abbott districts are encouraged to apply for funds to increase prekindergarten enrollment, extend program hours, or improve program quality. Funding levels are determined by length of the program day and number of low-income 4-year-olds. In the 2011-2012 school year, 24 districts offered the program to 512 children.

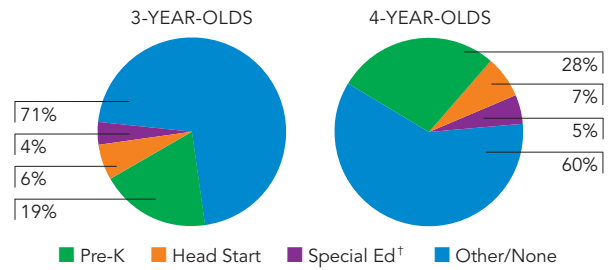
Starting in the 2009-2010 school year, districts across all three programs received funding based on the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) of 2008. SFRA’s funding formula generated a total budget amount for each district, within which districts built their respective budgets. As outlined in the SFRA, New Jersey planned to expand full-day preschool for at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds in all school districts over six years, with the goal of providing preschool for an additional 30,000 children by fall of 2013. However, flat-funding for the former ELLI program and a reduction of approximately \$5 million for former ECPA programs in the 2011-2012 school year continued to prevent most districts from expanding their programs.

In order to present the contributions New Jersey makes to preschool education throughout its three separate initiatives, we first present summary information reflecting the state’s overall commitment to preschool. Enrollment and state spending for the former Abbott, ECPA, and ELLI initiatives are combined to present a comprehensive state profile. Next, specific details about each initiative in the state are presented. The third page of this profile focuses exclusively on the former Abbott program; the fourth page focuses exclusively on the former ECPA program; and the final page focuses exclusively on the former ELLI program.

## STATE OVERVIEW

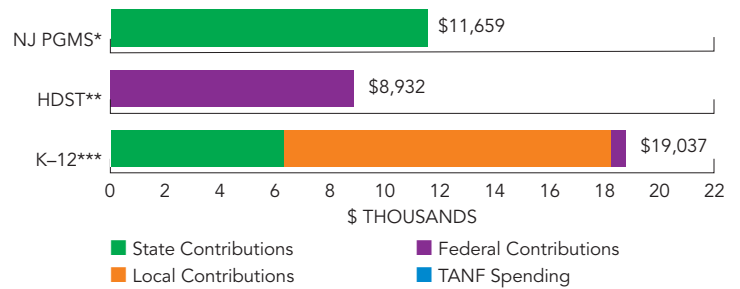
Total state program enrollment .....	51,540
Total state spending .....	\$600,893,867
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$11,659
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$11,659

### 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.

### SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



\* 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.

State per-child spending in New Jersey appears to be higher for state prekindergarten programs than for K-12 education, but in fact this is not the case in the districts that offer state pre-K. More than 80 percent of state prekindergarten enrollment is in Abbott districts, which also have a K-12 state aid payment that is nearly 3 times the statewide average per child. In other words, state spending per child is also much higher for K-12 in the Abbott districts.

#### ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS

3-YEAR-OLDS

16

2

#### RESOURCES RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING

ALL REPORTED SPENDING

1

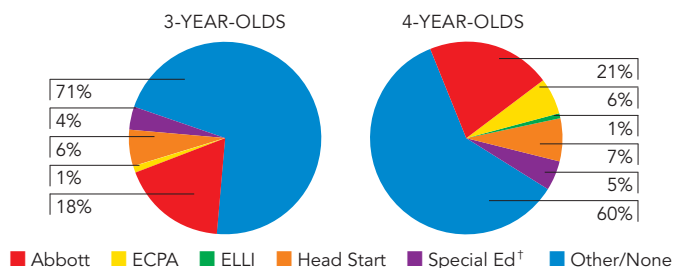
2

## NEW JERSEY FORMER ABBOTT AND EXPANSION DISTRICTS

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	43,543
School districts that offer state program .....	6%
Income requirement.....	None <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation.....	6 hours/day (school day), 5 days/week <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule .....	Academic year <sup>2</sup>
Special education enrollment .....	10,683
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4 .....	13,881
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



<sup>†</sup> 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?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive .....	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA .....	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	P-3, Nursery School Certificate, P-8 with 2 years preschool teaching experience (public and nonpublic) <sup>3</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD <sup>4</sup> .....	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	100 clock hours/5 years .....	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....	.....	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	15		
4-year-olds .....	15		
Staff-child ratio .....	.....	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	2:15		
4-year-olds .....	2:15		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health, dental, and support services      developmental; and support services <sup>5</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Breakfast, lunch and snack .....	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring .....	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



### RESOURCES

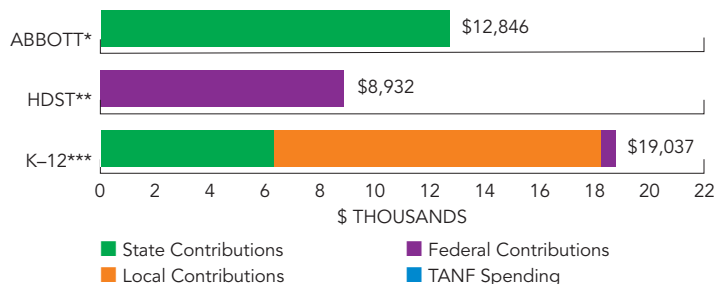
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$559,361,073
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$12,846 <sup>6</sup>
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$12,846 <sup>6</sup>

\* 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



<sup>1</sup> The program is offered in the poor urban districts initially identified by the N.J. Supreme Court in 1990 as having at least 40 percent of children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch and five additional districts designated since by the legislature. All 3- and 4-year-old children within those districts are eligible to participate.

<sup>2</sup> Providers are only required by the Department of Education to provide a 6-hour educational program for the 180-day academic year. Providers can choose to operate a before- and after-care program and/or a full-year (245-day) program. If they choose to do so, all children meeting income requirements are paid for through the Department of Children and Families.

<sup>3</sup> Teachers with an Elementary School certificate (N-8) may teach preschool if they have an equivalent of two academic years of full-time experience teaching 3- and 4-year-olds under the certificate or demonstrate content knowledge in line with a district's established documentation requirements. Teachers with related certificates may apply for preschool licensure, take the Praxis exam, and begin the process of obtaining a P-3 certificate.

<sup>4</sup> Assistant teachers in public schools supported by Title I funding must meet the education/degree requirements specified in NCLB.

<sup>5</sup> Support services include parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and parent conferences or home visits.

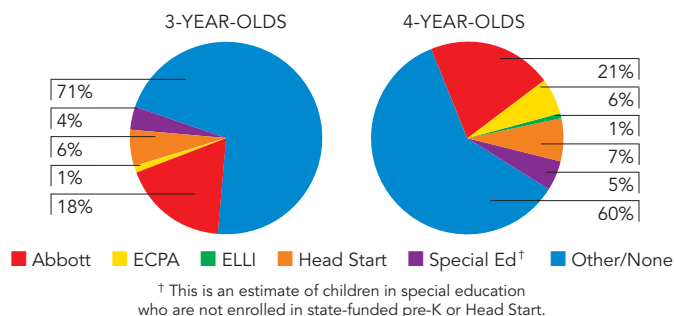
<sup>6</sup> State per-child spending in New Jersey appears to be higher for state prekindergarten programs than for K-12 education, but in fact this is not the case in the districts that offer state pre-K. More than 80 percent of state prekindergarten enrollment is in Abbott districts, which also have a K-12 state aid payment that is nearly 3 times the statewide average per child. In other words, state spending per child is also much higher for K-12 in the Abbott districts.

## NEW JERSEY FORMER EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM AID DISTRICTS

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	7,485
School districts that offer state program .....	16%
Income requirement.....	None <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation.....	At least 2.5 hours/day (part-day), or at least 6 hours/day (school-day), 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment .....	10,683
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4 .....	13,881
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	P-3, Nursery School Certificate, N-8 with 2 years preschool teaching experience (public and nonpublic) <sup>3</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD <sup>4</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	100 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	18		
4-year-olds .....	18		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	1:9		
4-year-olds .....	1:9		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health, dental, and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Depend on length of program day <sup>6</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

8

### RESOURCES

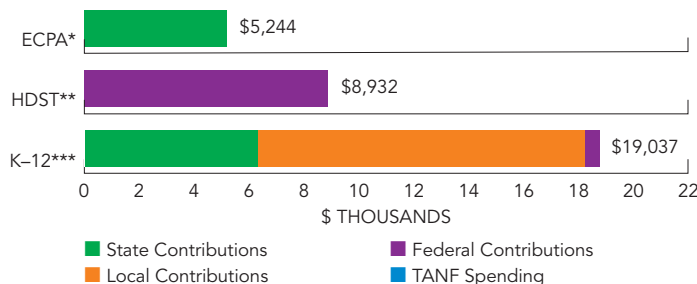
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$39,252,494 <sup>7</sup>
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$5,244
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$5,244

\* 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



<sup>1</sup> Funds are only provided to those districts indicated by the legislature at the program's inception as having between 20 to 40 percent of children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. All 3- and 4-year-old children within those districts are eligible to participate. However, the program is only open to 3-year-olds once the district has offered full-day kindergarten to all age-eligible children, and either part- or school-day preschool to all 4-year-olds.

<sup>2</sup> Part-day programs must be at least 2.5 hours per day; school-day programs must be at least 6 hours per day. Length of program day varies by districts. In some cases, both part- and school-day programs are offered. Part-day programs are most common.

<sup>3</sup> Teachers with an Elementary School certificate (N-8) may teach preschool if they have an equivalent of two academic years of full-time experience teaching 3- and 4-year-olds under the certificate or demonstrate content knowledge in line with a district's established documentation requirements. Teachers with related certificates may apply for preschool licensure, take the Praxis exam, and begin the process of obtaining a P-3 certificate.

<sup>4</sup> Assistant teachers in public schools supported by Title I funding must meet the education/degree requirements specified in NCLB.

<sup>5</sup> Support services include parent involvement activities, health services for children, parent conferences or home visits, and transition to kindergarten activities.

<sup>6</sup> Meals are required in school-day programs.

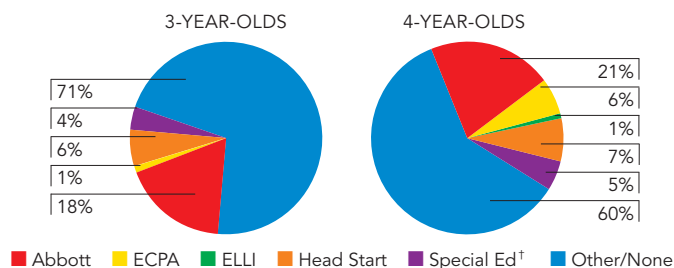
<sup>7</sup> This figure reflects state funds directed to services for preschool-age children. Additionally, unspecified amounts of federal funds contribute to the program. Prior to 2011-2012, funding for districts was "held harmless" for districts experiencing declining student enrollment. The practice ended in 2011-2012 resulting in several districts allocated lower budget amounts to reflect actual enrollment.

## NEW JERSEY FORMER EARLY LAUNCH TO LEARNING INITIATIVE DISTRICTS

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	512
School districts that offer state program .....	4%
Income requirement .....	185% FPL <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation .....	At least 2.5 hours/day (part-day), or at least 6 hours/day (school-day), 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment .....	10,683
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4 .....	13,881
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



<sup>†</sup> 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?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training.....	P-3, Nursery School Certificate, N-8 with 2 years preschool teaching experience (public and nonpublic) <sup>2</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	HSD <sup>3</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	100 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	20		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	1:10		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health, dental, and support services      developmental; and support services <sup>4</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Depend on length of program day <sup>5</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

8

### RESOURCES

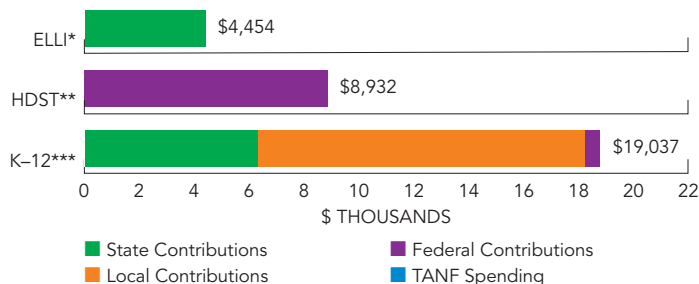
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$2,280,300
Local match required? .....	Yes <sup>6</sup>
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$4,454
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$4,454

\* 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



<sup>1</sup> Districts may enroll other students in unusual circumstances.

<sup>2</sup> Teachers with an Elementary School certificate (N-8) may teach preschool if they have an equivalent of two academic years of full-time experience teaching 3- and 4-year-olds under the certificate or demonstrate content knowledge in line with a district's established documentation requirements. Teachers with related certificates may apply for preschool licensure, take the Praxis exam, and begin the process of obtaining a P-3 certificate.

<sup>3</sup> Assistant teachers in public schools supported by Title I funding must meet the education/degree requirements specified in NCLB.

<sup>4</sup> Support services include parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, parent conferences or home visits, and transition to kindergarten activities.

<sup>5</sup> School- and extended-day programs are required to offer breakfast, lunch, and snack.

<sup>6</sup> Classrooms must include general and special education students funded through other sources.