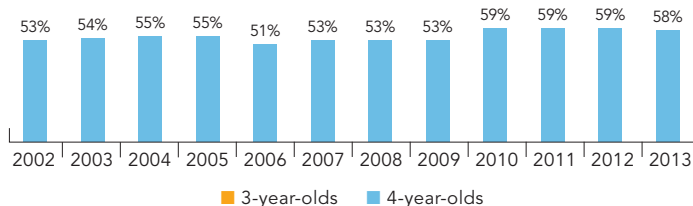
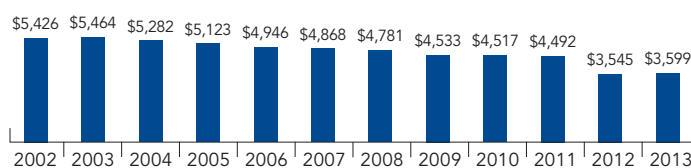


# Georgia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2013 DOLLARS)



Georgia's Pre-K program, established in 1993, became the nation's first state-funded universal preschool program for 4-year-olds in 1995. State lottery revenues are used to fund the program, which is available 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 June 2013, the new Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards, aligned with the Common Core Georgia Performance Standard, were released. Teachers are being trained in the standards during the 2013-2014 school year with a full rollout in the 2014-2015 school year.

On-site monitoring allows the state to track implementation of the program's quality standards. As part of measuring and improving quality, Georgia's Pre-K uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). Included in Georgia's K-12 Race to the Top grant is an initiative in which many of Georgia's Pre-K teachers are receiving specialized professional development related to the CLASS.

The state implemented the Georgia Pre-K Child Assessment Program, based on the Work Sampling System, beginning in the 2006-2007 school year. Teachers were trained on how to use this assessment to document children's progress, individualize instruction, and provide parents with progress reports. These assessment efforts facilitate coordination between Georgia's Pre-K and the K-16 system. In the 2008-2009 school year, an online version of the Child Assessment program, including assigning Georgia Testing IDs to pre-K students, was piloted. During the 2011-2012 school year, 2,070 classes participated in the Work Sampling Online System. All classrooms will be using this system in the 2013-2014 school year.

Georgia's Pre-K Program experienced a number of changes beginning 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. The program year was also cut by 20 days, though 10 days were added back in for the 2012-2013 school year, and the other 10 days were added back for the 2013-2014 year, returning the program to its 180-day schedule. 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.

In 2011, Georgia began a multi-year evaluation conducted by FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Data on the first two phases of the study have been released.

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

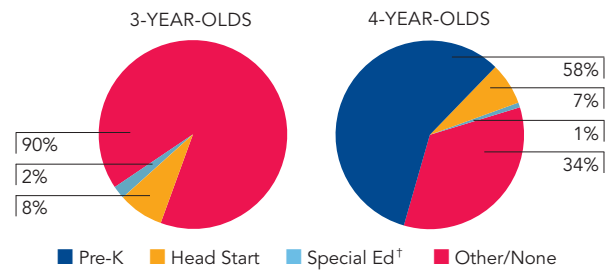
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
28	29

# GEORGIA'S PRE-K PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	81,683
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, ages 3 and 4 .....	8,920
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	21,107
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	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

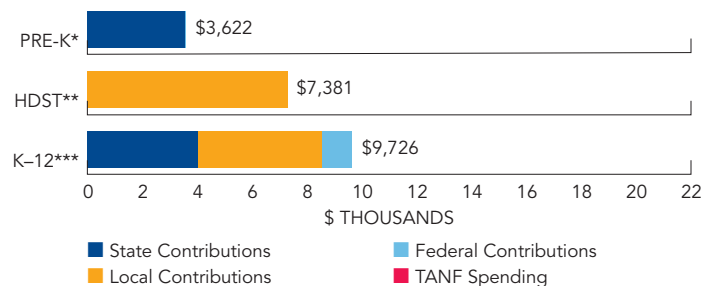
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET</b>  </div>
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive .....	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher degree .....	BA <sup>1</sup> .....	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher specialized training .....	Elementary, SpEd General Curriculum Consulative/ECE, ECE, SpEd Preschool, Birth-Five, <sup>1</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Assistant teacher degree .....	CDA or paraprofessional certificate <sup>2</sup> .....	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher in-service .....	15 clock hours/year .....	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Maximum class size .....	.....	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds .....	NA .....			
4-year-olds .....	22 .....			
Staff-child ratio .....	.....	1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds .....	NA .....			
4-year-olds .....	1:11 <sup>3</sup> .....			
Screening/referral and support services .....	Vision, hearing, health, dental; and support services <sup>4</sup>	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 .....	\$293,939,678
Local match required? .....	No
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$3,599
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$3,622

\* 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 2012-2013 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.  
 \*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '12-'13 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



<sup>1</sup> 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.  
<sup>2</sup> In order to receive a paraprofessional certificate, the applicant must have an associate's degree or equivalent course credits, pass an ECE exam, and background check. The certificate is issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.  
<sup>3</sup> Maximum class size and teacher-to-student ratio were changed as of the 2011-2012 school year, due to budget constraints, and will continue through at least the 2013-2014 school year. These no longer meet NIEER's quality standard benchmark.

<sup>4</sup> 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.