While Mississippi did not provide a state-funded pre-K program in the 2012-2013 school year, the state plans to begin providing such a program in the 2014-2015 school year. In 2013, Mississippi approved a small-scale pre-K program as part of a series of education reforms. The program seeks to provide high quality pre-K through a collaborative delivery model.

Since 2008, Mississippi Building Blocks (MBB) has been sponsored by several Mississippi organizations and business leaders. MBB seeks to offer statewide leadership to encourage excellence in early childhood programs, from birth to kindergarten entry, and to support children in their school readiness. The initiative provides high-quality learning experiences for children and families through training, coaching, and technical assistance for early childhood professionals. A commission of education experts and business leaders began studying the program in 2010, and issued several recommendations to move towards a statewide system, including improving instructional proficiency of preschool teachers and modifying the child care licensing and Quality Rating System standard.

A report from the U.S. Department of Education indicate that at least 4,053 general education students were enrolled in district-operated preschool programs in the 2011-2012 school year.
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 .........................................................5,124
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ...........................................24,573
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 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.