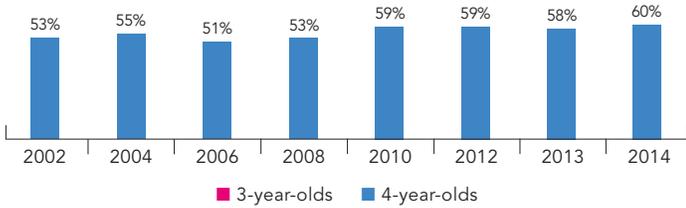
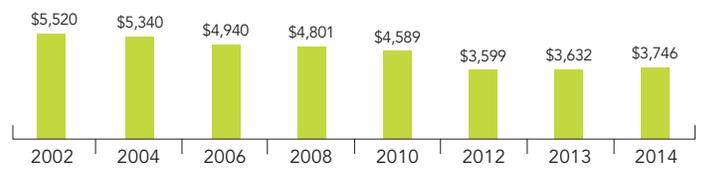


Georgia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED* (2014 DOLLARS)



Georgia's targeted Pre-K program was established in 1993. In 1995, the program became the nation's first state-funded universal preschool program for 4-year-olds. Funding is generated through state lottery revenues and the program 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.

The new Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards, which align with the Common Core Georgia Performance Standard, were released in June 2013. During the 2013-2014 school year, teachers were trained in the standards which were fully implemented in the 2014-2015 school year.

Schools are monitored on-site for the state to track implementation of quality standards. Georgia's Pre-K uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) to measure and improve quality. Georgia also received a K-12 Race to the Top grant which includes an initiative in which many of Georgia's Pre-K teachers are receiving specialized professional development related to the CLASS.

Based on the Work Sampling System, Georgia implemented the state's Pre-K Child Assessment Program in the 2006-2007 school year. Teachers were trained on how to use this assessment, in order to individualize instruction, document children's progress, and provide parents with progress reports. These assessments facilitate coordination between Georgia's Pre-K and the K-16 system. An online version of the Child Assessment program, which assigned Georgia Testing IDs to pre-K students, was piloted in the 2008-2009 school year. The Work Sampling Online system was created in the 2011-2012 school year, and initially had 2,070 classrooms participating. In the 2013-2014 school year, the Work Sampling System was used for approximately 78,863 children and now includes a specific instrument for kindergarten assessment similar to the Work Sampling System.

In the 2011-2012 school year, Georgia's Pre-K Program underwent a number of changes in response to budgetary constraints. The program was cut by 20 days, though 10 days were added back for the following year, and another 10 during the 2013-2014 year. This returned the program to its 180-day schedule. Other changes included a teacher-student ratio of 1-11 being allowed, and the maximum class size now set at 22 students. An increase in teacher turnover occurred when the state also implemented a cap of Training and Experience (T&E) supplemental pay for certified teachers in public schools.

Georgia began a multi-year evaluation in 2011, which was conducted by the 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.

Georgia's Pre-K program funded a Summer Transition Program in the summer of 2014 to serve students who were on a waitlist for Pre-K or needed an additional six weeks of instruction and included dual-language learners. Georgia is a winner of the federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grants for their commitment to early education.

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

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
23	29

GEORGIA'S PRE-K PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	81,453
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	No income requirement
Hours of operation	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	8,832
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	21,296
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0 ²

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



[†] Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">8</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 Consultative/ECE, ECE SpEd Preschool, Birth to Five ¹	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Assistant teacher degree	CDA or paraprofessional certificate ²	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours/academic 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 ³			
Screening/referral and support services	Vision; hearing; health, dental; and support services ⁴	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

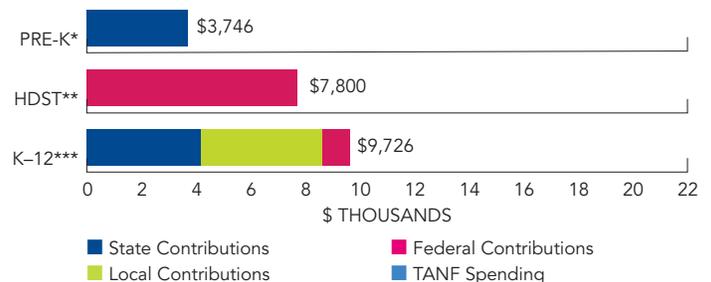
Total state pre-K spending	\$305,084,448
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,746
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,746

* 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 2013-2014 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 '13-'14 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 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.