The Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Program began in 2000 and has increased the number of participating sites over the past few years. The initiative is supported with a mix of public and private funds, including state dollars, contributions from the Lucent Technologies Foundation, and an Appalachian Regional Commission Grant. The program serves 4-year-olds. There are no set income or other eligibility criteria, but over half of the children enrolled in the program qualify for free or reduced-price lunch (defined as having an income below 185 percent of poverty). Programs are operated by schools, Head Start programs, nonprofit agencies, and for-profit agencies.

When asked to identify the one thing the state has done to contribute the most to all preschoolers getting a good education, state administrators noted that, through curriculum and professional development training, Alabama has worked to promote professionalism among prekindergarten providers.

In 2002–2003, the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Program received $3,584,500 in state funding and served 1,260 4-year-olds.

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**Access**

- Total state program enrollment: 1,260
- 7% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K
- 2% of 4-year-olds in state Pre-K

**Quality Standards Checklist**

- Curriculum standards: Comprehensive
- Teacher degree requirement: BA
- Teacher specialization training requirement: None
- Parent involvement requirement: At least 15 contact hours
- 1:9 staff-child ratio
- At least 2 parent conferences
- Vision, hearing, and dental

**Resources**

- Total state Pre-K spending: $3,175 per child
- State spending per 3-year-old: $3,175
- State spending per 4-year-old: $4,028

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