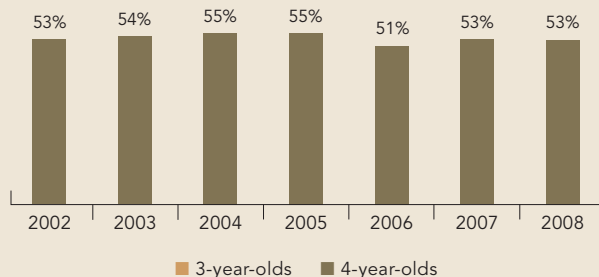
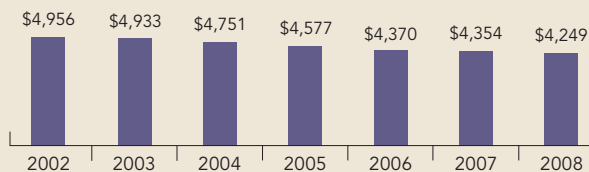


Georgia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2008 DOLLARS)



Georgia became the first state to offer a universally available preschool education program for 4-year-olds in 1995. Although Georgia's Pre-K Program has operated since 1993, it was not always universally available. The program provides services through a variety of settings including public schools, Head Start programs, private child care centers, faith-based organizations, military facilities, and state colleges and universities. The Pre-K Program receives funds from the Georgia lottery. Funding for individual programs is determined by the number of students in the class, teacher credentials, and the program zone (metropolitan or non-metropolitan area).

All Georgia Pre-K programs are required to follow the Bright from the Start Pre-K Operating Guidelines and must use Georgia's Pre-K Content Standards to guide instruction. The Pre-K Content Standards are aligned with both the Georgia Performance Standards for Kindergarten and the Georgia Early Learning Standards for children from birth through age 3. On-site program monitoring assures adherence to the quality standards. Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, teacher assistants are required to have a minimum of a CDA.

The Georgia Pre-K Child Assessment Program was implemented statewide during the 2006-2007 school year and is based on the Work Sampling System. Teachers have been trained to use the pre-K assessment to individualize instruction and to document and inform parents of children's progress. Parents receive two progress reports a year that are linked to the assessment program.

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

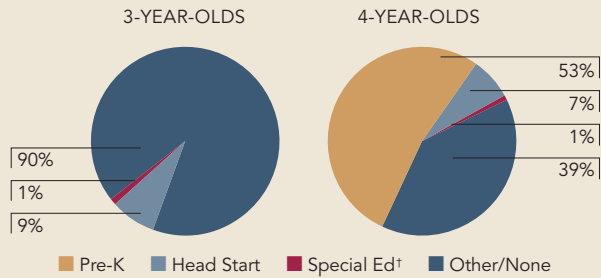
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
15	22

GEORGIA PRE-K PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	76,491
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	9,300
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	21,923
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



[†] This number represents 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	AA or Montessori diploma	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Degree and certification in ECE or meet Montessori requirements ¹	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD ²	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours	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 and support services	Vision, hearing, health, dental, developmental; and support services ³	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"/>

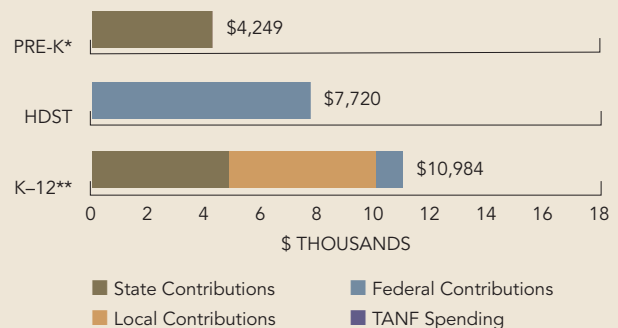
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

8

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$325,000,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,249
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,249

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

**K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Local school systems typically require that Pre-K teachers be certified.

² Beginning in the 2008-2009 program year, the minimum requirement for teacher assistants will be a CDA.

³ Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities, transition to kindergarten activities, and other locally determined support services.