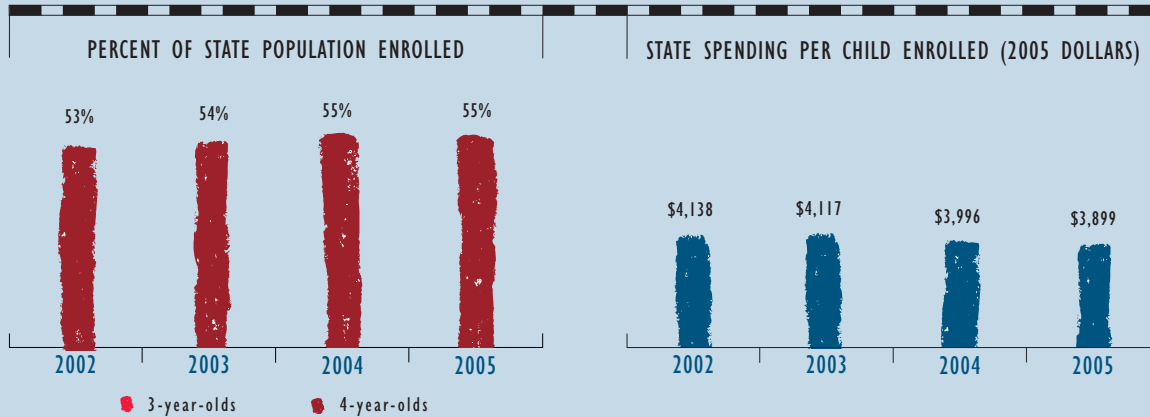


# Georgia



The Georgia Prekindergarten Program was the first preschool program in the United States to provide universal access to all 4-year-olds statewide. Funded through the state lottery, the program has been operating since 1993 and began offering unrestricted voluntary enrollment in 1995. Programs are available through public schools as well as private child care centers, Head Start agencies, faith-based organizations, state colleges, and universities. Consistent quality standards apply across all types of program settings.

The amount of funding a prekindergarten program receives for each child depends on factors such as teacher qualifications, type of program, and program location. For instance, programs receive a larger per-pupil reimbursement if teachers are certified than if teachers have 4-year or vocational degrees.

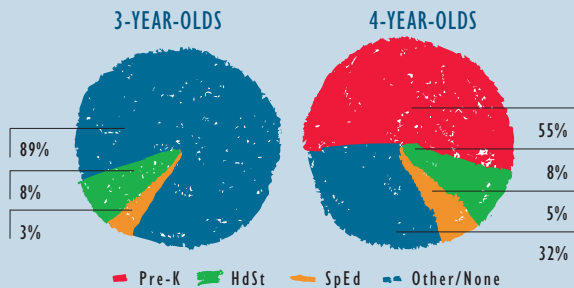
The state has Bright from the Start Pre-K Content Standards that are comprehensive and aligned with the Georgia Performance Standards for Kindergarten. The Pre-K Content Standards are linked to ongoing assessments used to document children's progress, guide instruction, and inform parents. The state monitors programs' adherence to the Pre-K Content Standards as well as other quality standards through site visits. The state makes at least two visits per year to each program.



## ACCESS

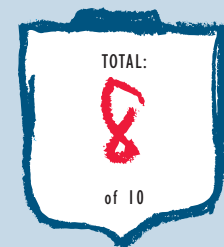
Total state program enrollment	70,793
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	10,156
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	21,380
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



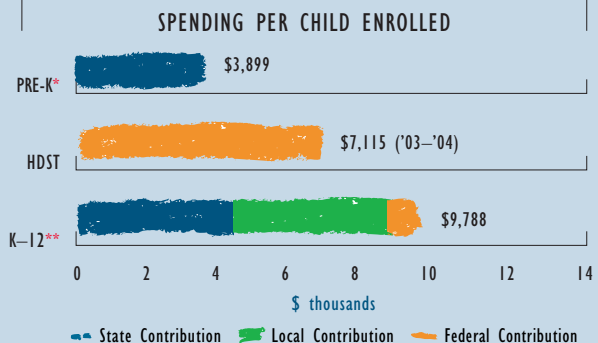
## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive <sup>1</sup>	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	AA or Montessori diploma	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Degree in ECE or meet Montessori requirements <sup>2</sup>	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD or equivalent + experience	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours <sup>3</sup>	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, and developmental; and support services <sup>4</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Lunch and snack	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	\$276,000,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,899
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$2,131



\* 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 '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> The state released revised Pre-K content standards in June 2004. The standards were revised again in July 2005 to align with the Georgia Performance Standards for Kindergarten.

<sup>2</sup> The state-level public school certification covers Pre-K-5th grade. Local school systems typically require that Pre-K teachers be certified.

<sup>3</sup> The annual teacher in-service requirement increased from 12 clock hours to 15 clock hours effective with the 2004-2005 school year.

<sup>4</sup> Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, and transition to kindergarten activities.