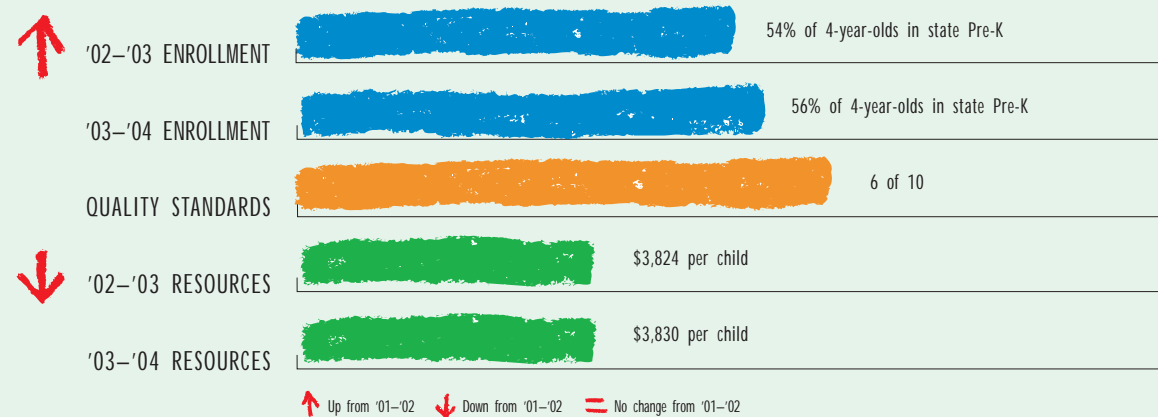


Georgia



Started in 1993 and opened for unrestricted voluntary enrollment in 1995, the Georgia Prekindergarten Program was the United States' first preschool program open to all 4-year-olds statewide. Because programs are found in a variety of community-based settings—in both public schools and private child care centers, including those run by Head Start and faith-based organizations—Georgia is able to provide universal access to children in each of the state's school districts. Consistent quality standards are maintained across all types of program settings. The program, which is funded through the state lottery, served 65,900 4-year-olds in 2002–2003, with an additional 10,755 (9 percent) of Georgia's 4-year-olds served in the federal Head Start program. In 2002–2003, the Office of School Readiness awarded an additional \$18,453,447 in Resource Coordination grants, which allowed 309 providers to expand services offered for at-risk families.

Teacher qualifications, type of program, and program location all factor into the reimbursement rate structure for Georgia's prekindergarten programs. For example, in 2003–2004, a private prekindergarten program in a metropolitan area was reimbursed at the rate of \$3,566 per pupil if the teacher was certified, \$3,177 per pupil if the teacher had a 4-year degree, and \$2,951 per pupil if the teacher had a vocational degree.

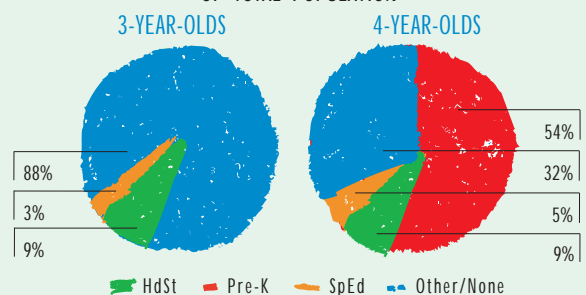
Funding for the Georgia Prekindergarten Program was \$261 million in 2003–2004, and 68,155 4-year-olds were served.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	65,900
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Full-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	9,178
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	21,879
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

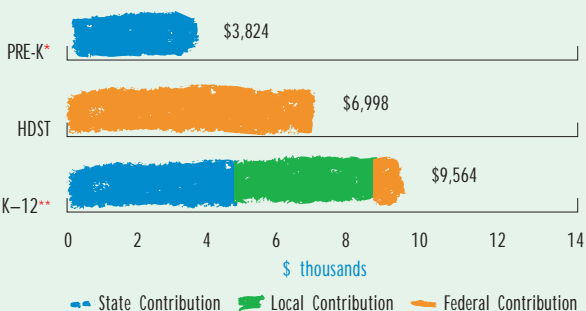
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Not comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	AA or Montessori diploma	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Degree in ECE or meet Montessori requirements ²	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree req.	HSD or equivalent + experience	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	12 clock hours ³	At least 15 hours/year	<input 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 requirements	Vision, hearing, and health	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	2 parent conferences and support services ⁴	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	Lunch and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$252,000,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,824
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$2,075

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 '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 Pre-K is offered in all districts through a combination of public and private providers.
2 The state-level public school certification covers preschool through grade 5. Local school system policies typically require that Pre-K teachers be certified.
3 Pre-K teachers are required to undergo 12 hours of training per year, for which they receive 10 hours' worth of Staff Development Unit (SDU) credits.
4 Support services include parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, and transition to kindergarten activities.