

Mississippi

NO PROGRAM

Mississippi does not have a state-funded preschool education initiative, but the private sector raised funds and launched Mississippi Building Blocks in late 2008 to improve school readiness skills for children in child care centers. Services for Mississippi Building Blocks began in August 2009 and aim to involve licensed child care centers throughout the state, including centers that currently serve families with children who qualify for CCDF or TANF funding. The program provides teacher mentoring, materials to classrooms, business advice to center directors, and parenting classes for participating families. The initiative will serve children in 150 classrooms.

In addition, Mississippi Building Blocks seeks to increase the number of child care centers in the Mississippi Child Care Quality Step Systems program (MCCQSS) by providing a higher reimbursement rate to participating centers. The goal of this quality rating system is to encourage the implementation of age-appropriate curricula in child care centers, thereby ensuring that children begin kindergarten ready to learn.

In fiscal year 2008, the state allocated \$2 million to expand the voluntary pilot MCCQSS program in 60 Mississippi counties. While Mississippi Building Blocks is funded partly by a federal appropriation, the program is primarily privately funded by foundations and corporate sponsors. The program has nearly reached its goal of raising \$10.6 million for the four-year pilot.

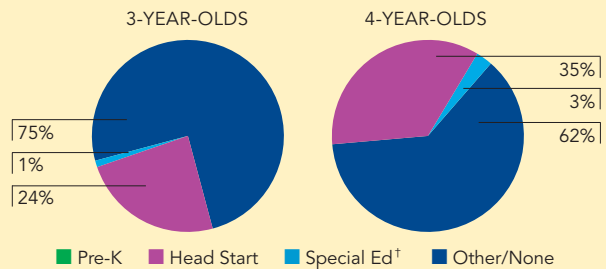
ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
No Program	

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	0
School districts that offer state program.....	NA
Income requirement	NA
Hours of operation	NA
Operating schedule	NA
Special education enrollment	4,309
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.....	25,288
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start.

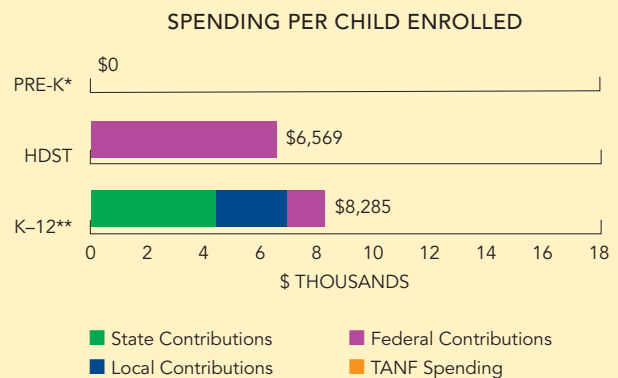
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

No Program

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$0
Local match required?.....	NA
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$0



* 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 '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.