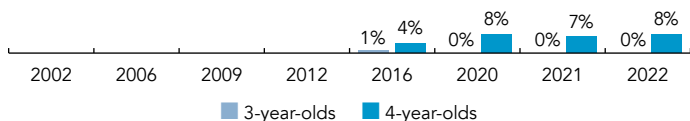
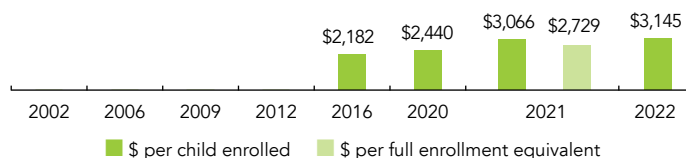


Mississippi

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2022 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

During the 2021-2022 school year, Mississippi preschool enrolled 2,807 children, an increase of 80 from the prior year, as the program began to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. State spending totaled \$8,000,000, with an additional \$829,003 in federal recovery funds to support the program, up \$466,820 (6%), adjusted for inflation since last year. State spending per child (including federal recovery funds) equaled \$3,145 in 2021-2022, up \$79 from 2020-2021, adjusted for inflation. Mississippi met 10 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

During the 2021-2022 school year, the legislature provided an additional \$8 million in planning grants for ELCs to prepare to open 2,900 more seats during the 2022-2023 school year. This expansion continued during the 2022-2023 school year, with another \$8 million for additional planning grants to open 3,040 seats more during the 2023-2024 school year. Preschool enrollment should triple by the 2023-2024 school year and state funding will equal \$24 million. Additionally, during the 2022 legislative session \$20 million was appropriated to fund additional preschool programs in school settings, in the State Invested Pre-K (SIP) Program.

In December 2022, Mississippi was awarded a federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) three-year renewal grant for \$8,095,090. Funds are planned to be used to offer coaching, family engagement activities, and professional learning opportunities for childcare, school district and Head Start preschool providers. This funding will also provide grant opportunities to school districts to offer blended preschool classrooms for children with and without disabilities in the same classroom.

BACKGROUND

The ELC Act of 2013 established Mississippi's first state-funded, voluntary pre-K program. The ELC Act provides funding to local communities to establish, expand, support, and facilitate the successful implementation of quality early childhood education and development services. Implementation began in January 2014, with capacity to serve 1,774 children.

The program was initially funded at \$3 million per year and increased to \$4 million for the 2016-2017 school year. Since 2017, nine new ELCs were funded. In 2021, the legislature doubled the funding to \$16 million which will provide an additional 3,040 seats for the ELC Pre- Kindergarten program. As long as the ELC Act of 2013 is funded, current Collaboratives that meet program requirements will continue to be funded. The legislature increased the per pupil rates starting in the 2020-2021 school year.

Pre-K programs in Head Start centers, licensed child-care facilities, and public, parochial, or private schools formed and maintained stakeholder councils called ELCs, involving at least two program auspices. Each ELC designates a Lead Partner, either a public school or other nonprofit entity, with the instructional expertise and operational capacity to manage the ELC's Pre-Kindergarten program.

The voluntary pre-K program intends to improve quality, increase access to high-quality pre-K programs for 4-year-olds, and prepare more children to enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and also supports local programs to improve pre-K quality and access. Pre-K programs also implement an integrated, effective system of early childhood curriculum, instruction, assessment, and program evaluation, including curricula aligned with the Mississippi Department of Education's Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants through Four-Year-Old Children.

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

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
41	23

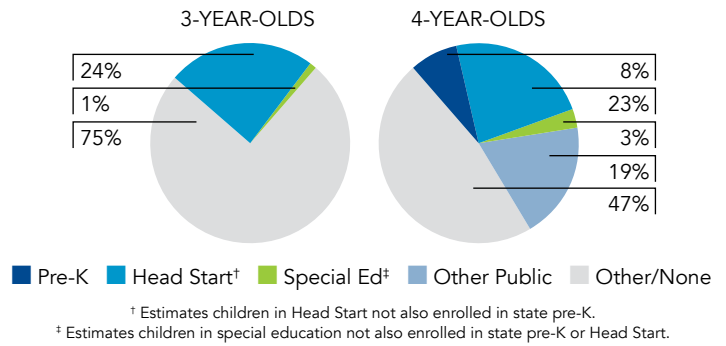
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
10

MISSISSIPPI EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	2,807
School districts that offer state program	17%
Income requirement	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation	4 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	3,109
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	17,827
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	MS PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	AA in ECE or CD	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

* Indicates that while policy meets the benchmark, it is not being implemented fully.

10

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$8,829,003
Local match required?	Yes
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,145
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,958

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

† Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.

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

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

