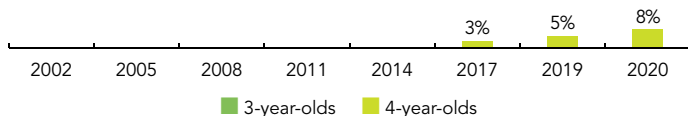


Mississippi

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2020 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

Mississippi preschool enrolled 3,064 4-year-olds in 2019-2020, an increase of 1,110 4-year-olds from the prior year. State funding totaled \$6,699,517, up \$2,143,311 (47%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$2,187 in 2019-2020, down \$145 from 2018-2019, adjusted for inflation. Mississippi met 10 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

In 2020, Mississippi legislature increased the per pupil rate for ELC from \$2,150 to \$2,500, which will go into affect for the 2020-2021 school year. Because of the required 1:1 local match, this will bring total per pupil spending from all sources to \$5,000.

In March 2020, the Governor issued a state-wide mandate that physically closed all state-funded preschool programs by the Governor for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a local decision whether to shorten the school year or to provide remote instruction to students. There was a mix of in-person and remote instruction when the 2020-2021 school year began. To prepare for remote and in-person instruction, diverse professional development opportunities have been on-going for teachers and administrators. Virtual coaching was also provided continuously for teaching staff and administrators.

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. Additionally, in January 2017, four new ELCs were funded and launched full services for the 2018-2019 school year. As mentioned above, in 2018 five additional ELCs were added. 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 full-time per pupil rate from \$2,150 to \$2,500 and the part-time rate from \$1,075 to \$1,250 per year for 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. The state program also supports local programs to improve quality and provide families access to information about pre-K programs. 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
39	None Served

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
42	30

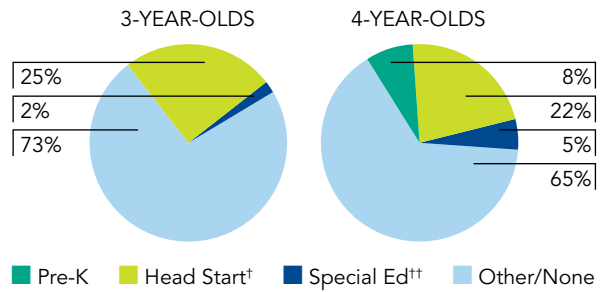
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
10

MISSISSIPPI EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	3,064
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	4,153
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	18,848
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

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"/>

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

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$6,699,517
Local match required?	Yes
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,187
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$5,704

* 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

