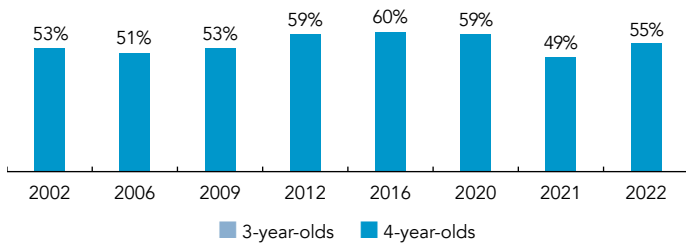
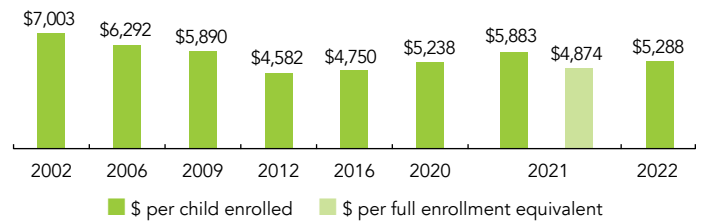


# Georgia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2022 DOLLARS)



## OVERVIEW

During the 2021-2022 school year, Georgia preschool enrolled 73,177 children, an increase of 6,623 from the prior year, as the program began to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. State spending totaled \$370,958,408, with an additional \$15,988,500 in federal recovery funds to support the program, down \$4,576,209 (1%), adjusted for inflation since last year. State spending per child (including federal recovery funds) equaled \$5,288 in 2021-2022, down \$595 from 2020-2021, adjusted for inflation. Georgia met 8 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

## WHAT'S NEW

During the 2021-2022 school year, Georgia Pre-K Program classrooms returned to in-person instruction with only interim closures due to COVID-19 cases. Lead and assistant teachers received a \$125 grant per individual to purchase classroom supplies and materials through CRRSA funding. In addition, lead and assistant teachers received a \$2,000 bonus. The state budget also included a \$2,000 pay increase for all lead teachers PK–grade 12. In Georgia’s Pre-K budget, the pay increase was for all lead and assistant teachers in public and private settings. To help mitigate the impact of the pandemic on school readiness, GEER funding was utilized to expand the Pre-K Summer Transition Program to serve an additional 2,000 students.

## BACKGROUND

Georgia’s Pre-K Program launched in 1992 as a small pilot program and expanded in 1995 to become the nation’s first state-funded universal preschool program for 4-year-olds. State lottery revenues generate funding for the program, which is provided in a variety of settings, including public schools, private child-care centers, faith-based organizations, Head Start agencies, state colleges and universities, and military facilities.

In 2011, the Georgia General Assembly authorized an evaluation of Georgia’s Pre-K Program. In response to the General Assembly, DECAL commissioned national experts at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to conduct a series of studies to measure the impact of the state’s nationally renowned Pre-K program. Reports and summaries from the studies are available here: <http://dec.al.ga.gov/BftS/EvaluationGAPreKProgram.aspx>.

Reports include recent results from the Pre-K Longitudinal Study designed to examine the short- and long-term learning outcomes for children who attended Georgia’s Pre-K as well as the quality of their preschool and early elementary school experiences. The report from the fifth year of the study was issued in January 2021. The final report with findings through the fourth grade will be issued in spring 2023.

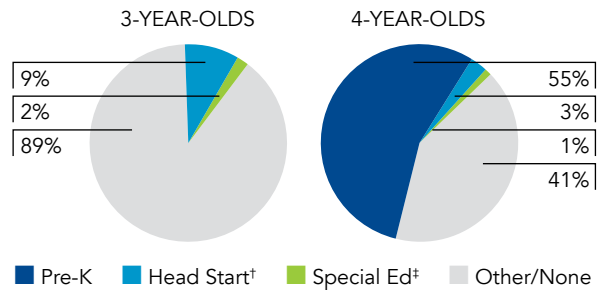
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
8	None Served	26	34	8

# GEORGIA'S PRE-K PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	73,177
School districts that offer state program.....	100% (counties)
Income requirement.....	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation.....	6.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule.....	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	8,263
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	18,909
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	GA PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	<b>BA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	22 (4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:11 (4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	<b>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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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.

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending.....	\$386,946,908
Local match required?.....	No
State Head Start spending.....	\$0
State spending per child enrolled.....	\$5,288
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$5,288

\* 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

