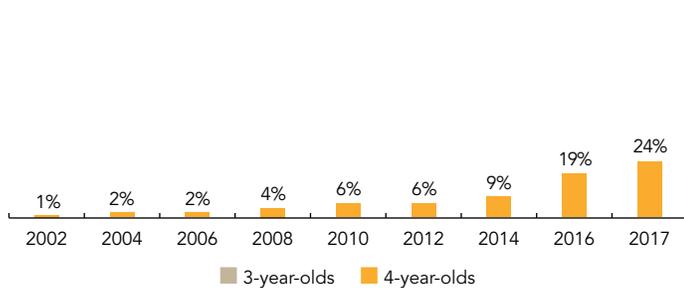
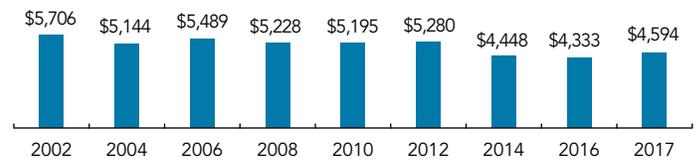


Alabama

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2017 DOLLARS)



First Class Pre-K: the Alabama Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (FCVPK) is a supplemental grant program administered by the Department of Early Childhood Education that provides funding for preschool education for 4-year-olds. First Class is available in all 67 counties throughout Alabama and provides funding to start new classrooms, support quality improvements in existing classrooms, and provide extra support to classrooms serving low-income populations. First Class classrooms are housed in many different locations, including Head Start programs, private child-care centers, community organizations, faith-based centers, colleges and universities, military agencies, and public schools.

The program began in 2000, serving 750 children. As of the 2016-2017 school year, the program serves more than 14,000 four-year-olds in a full-day education program, which is approximately 24% of the state's 4-year-old population. Enrollment increased by approximately 2,700 children from the prior school year, supported by a \$17.5 million federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) which was awarded to Alabama in 2014 to expand pre-K access across the state in high-risk areas. Looking forward, slots created by PDG are expected to be funded on an ongoing basis with state and local appropriations. All state residents who meet the age criteria are automatically eligible for FCVPK. Due to an increase in state spending for FCVPK, overall funding for the program in 2016-2017 rose by \$15.6 million to \$98.1 million.

FCVPK requires use of a curriculum incorporating recently updated early learning standards aligned to kindergarten content standards and Teaching Strategies GOLD objectives, the required formative assessment tool. All FCVPK classrooms are supported by a coach and monitored for continuous improvement. Monitors work with program administrators to ensure that FCVPK grants are properly administered, provide appropriate leadership to teaching staff in concert with coaches to improve instruction, and support the development of leadership skills necessary for effective program management and improvement. Alabama requires each classroom to have a lead teacher with a BA plus an early learning credential and, in 2015, introduced policies to support salary parity.

Funds for FCVPK are distributed by the Alabama Education Trust Fund Budget on a competitive awarding basis to programs running full-day, school-year programs. Grantees must locally match the award, and sliding-scale fees can be included in the matching funds. There are three levels of grants that can be awarded to pre-K programs: (1) Pre-K Excellence Grants of up to \$45,000 per grant are awarded to aid programs in meeting Alabama's quality standards, such as financing teacher education and teacher support programs. These grants are intended for use by programs that have other primary sources of funding and are awarded on a three-year cycle. (2) Pre-K Tiered Grants of \$80,200 to \$92,700 per grant differ from the Excellence grants as they are intended to be primary sources of funding. These grants are awarded to classrooms serving a certain share of the free and reduced-price lunch eligible population. These grants are also awarded on a three-year basis. (3) New Classroom or Plus Grants of \$120,000 to \$150,000 per grant are one-year grants awarded to new classrooms for the cost of materials, equipment, furnishings, and one full year of the general expenses of operation.

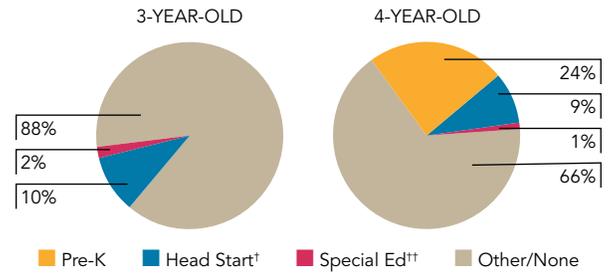
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	CURRENT STANDARDS	NEW STANDARDS
24	None Served	24	18	10	10

FIRST CLASS PRE-K: ALABAMA'S VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	14,032
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties/parishes)
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	3,900
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	13,396
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

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



† 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	AL PRE-K REQUIREMENT	CURRENT BENCHMARK	MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?	NEW BENCHMARK	MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive	☑	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	☑
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	New in 2015-2016	—	Approval process & supports	☑
Teacher degree	BA	BA	☑	BA	☑
Teacher specialized training	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd	Specializing in pre-K	☑	Specializing in pre-K	☑
Assistant teacher degree	CDA or 9 ECE/CD credits	CDA or equivalent	☑	CDA or equivalent	☑
Staff professional development	30 hours/year (teachers); 20 hours/year (assistants); PD plans; Coaching	For teachers: At least 15 hours/year	☑	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	☑
Maximum class size	20 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	☑	20 or lower	☑
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	☑	1:10 or better	☑
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more; Support services	Vision, hearing, health & at least one support service	☑	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	☑
Meals	Lunch	At least one meal/day	☑	Discontinued	—
Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Site visits	☑	Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan	☑
			10		
				10	

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$64,462,050
Local match required?	Yes
State Head Start spending	\$5,232,025
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,594
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$6,990

* 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

