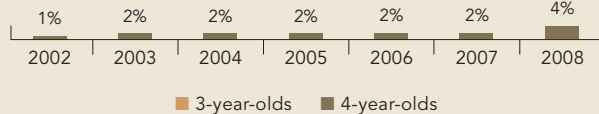
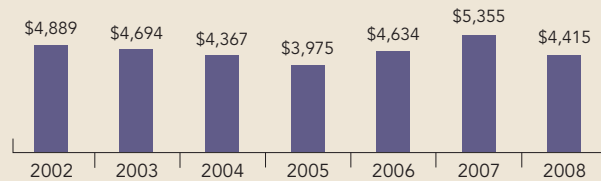


# Alabama

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2008 DOLLARS)



In 2000, Alabama began offering state-funded preschool education for 4-year-olds through the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program. There are no specific requirements for eligibility beyond meeting the age criteria and being a resident of Alabama. Limited resources for the program have kept statewide enrollment numbers low.

Sites for the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program are selected through a competitive grant process. Grantees must provide a local match that represents 50 percent of their grant award. Classroom settings are varied and include public schools, private child care centers, Head Start centers, faith-based centers, and colleges and universities. The state's goal is to have at least one classroom per county and classrooms are currently offered by grantees in all but one county.

The Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program revised its teacher certification standards to require new hires to have specialized training in early childhood education beginning in the 2005-2006 school year. This change in requirements resulted in the initiative meeting all 10 of the NIEER quality benchmarks. Initially, the state exempted teachers hired under a previous set of requirements, which allowed for a degree in elementary, rather than preschool, education. However, effective in 2009, all teachers in the program will be required to earn a preschool-third grade add-on to their degree or complete additional early childhood education coursework.

In 2007-2008, an increase in state funding enabled the state to provide pre-K to more children, and more technical assistance will be available to programs during the 2008-2009 academic year. In addition, the increase in funding will enable the state, for the first time, to provide scholarships for potential preschool teachers to work toward their degrees.

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

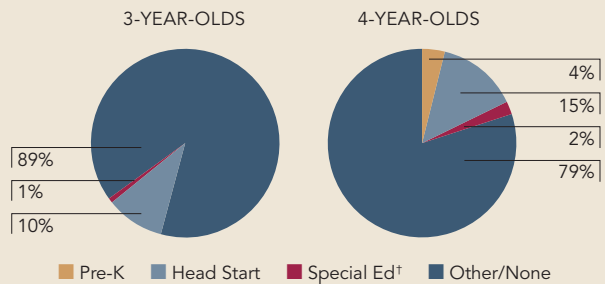
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
14	21

# ALABAMA PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	2,265
School districts that offer state program .....	99% (counties)
Income requirement .....	None
Hours of operation .....	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment .....	3,407
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	15,400
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	0

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



<sup>†</sup> This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start, but includes children who are enrolled in state-funded pre-K.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards .....	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree .....	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	Degree in CD or ECE <sup>1</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	CDA	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	40 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	18		
Staff-child ratio .....		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	1:9		
Screening/referral .....	Vision, hearing, health, dental; and support services <sup>2</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Lunch and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

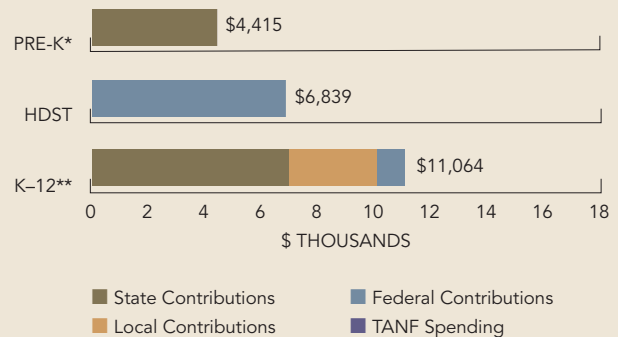
**TOTAL BENCHMARK MET**

10

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$10,000,000
Local match required? .....	Yes, 50% of grant amount
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$4,415
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$4,415

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



\* 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 '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Any preschool teachers with degrees in elementary education who were hired before May 2006 must obtain the P-3 add-on or complete additional early childhood coursework within three years or by 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, and transition to kindergarten activities.