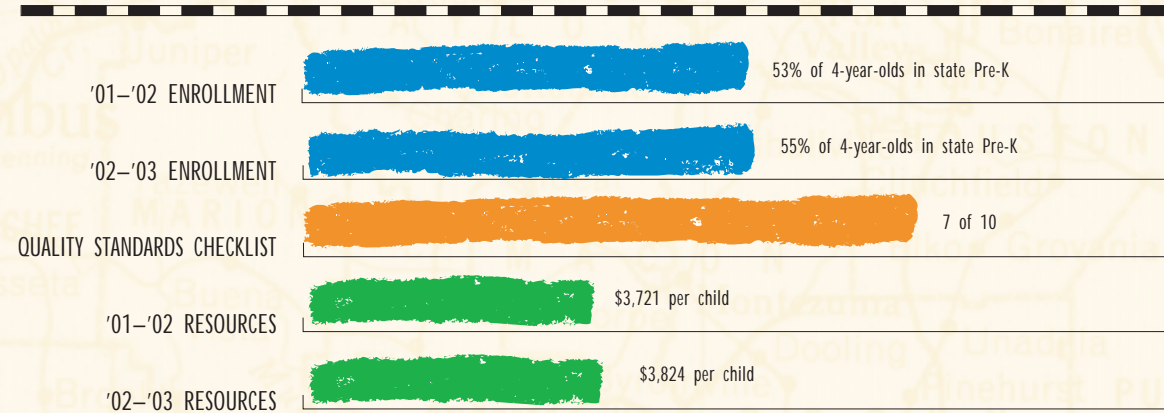


# Georgia



The Georgia Prekindergarten Program was the first preschool program in the country to offer enrollment to all 4-year-olds. This lottery-funded program began operating in 1993, and opened for unrestricted voluntary enrollment in 1995. Despite universal eligibility, the program served just over half of the state's 4-year-olds in 2001–2002, with an additional 9 percent enrolled in the federal Head Start program. Georgia's prekindergarten program is offered in each of the state's school districts through a combination of public and private providers. Some providers offer additional services for at-risk families through a resource coordination grant. In 2001–2002, the Office of School Readiness awarded more than 300 such grants, totaling \$18,400,000.

The reimbursement rate structure of Georgia's prekindergarten program provides an incentive for programs to employ teachers with higher qualifications. In 2003–2004, a private prekindergarten program in a metropolitan area is reimbursed \$2,951 per pupil if the teacher has a vocational degree, \$3,177 per pupil if the teacher has a four-year degree, and \$3,566 per pupil if the teacher is certified. As of 2001–2002, 80 percent of teachers in the program had at least a BA. Reimbursement rates also depend on the location and type of program. Private programs located in metropolitan areas are reimbursed at a higher rate than those in non-metropolitan areas, and all private programs are reimbursed at a higher rate than public school programs.

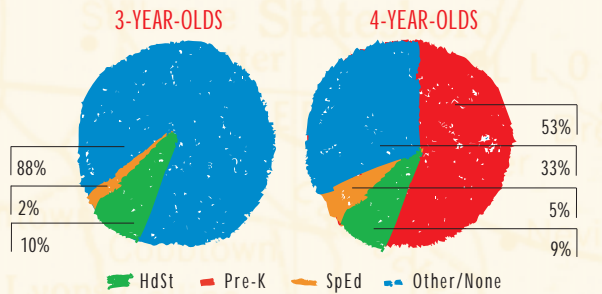
In 2002–2003, there were 65,900 4-year-olds in the Georgia Prekindergarten Program, which was funded at \$252,000,000.



## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	63,613
School districts that offer state program	100% <sup>1</sup>
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Full-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,920
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	21,958
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

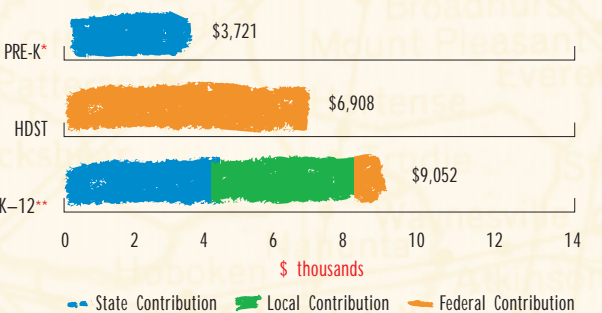
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Not comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	AA or Montessori diploma <sup>2</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Degree in ECE or meet Montessori requirements <sup>2</sup>	Specializing in EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	HSD or equivalent + some exp.	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	15 clock hours <sup>3</sup>	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	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision, hearing, and health	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	2 parent conferences <sup>4</sup>	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	Lunch <sup>5</sup>	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$236,700,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,721
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$1,987

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 '01-'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Pre-K is available in all districts through a combination of private and public providers.  
<sup>2</sup> Local school systems may have other requirements, and typically employ certified teachers. Nearly all public school Pre-K programs have certified teachers.  
<sup>3</sup> New lead teachers must attend curriculum-specific training. For example, 60 clock hours are required for High/Scope.  
<sup>4</sup> Providers may apply for resource coordination grants to serve at-risk families. The Office of School Readiness awarded 309 such grants in 2001–2002, totaling \$18,400,000. Provision of such service is optional.  
<sup>5</sup> Breakfast and snack are optional in public schools, but snack is required in private child care centers.