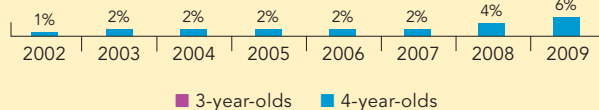
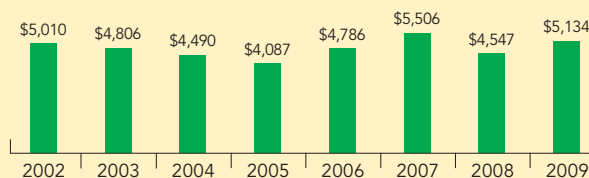


Alabama

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2009 DOLLARS)



Alabama began offering state-funded preschool to 4-year-olds through the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program in 2000. Beyond meeting the age criteria and being a resident of Alabama, there are no specific eligibility requirements. However, enrollment numbers are low due to limited resources for the prekindergarten program. Starting in the 2008-2009 school year, the program is now referred to as First Class: Alabama's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program.

Sites for the program are selected through a competitive grant process and include public schools, private child care centers, Head Start centers, faith-based centers, and colleges and universities. Grantees must provide a local match of their grant award, which varies across grantees and program years. The state aims to have at least one classroom per county; currently, classrooms are offered in all but three counties.

Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, teacher certification standards were revised to require new hires to have specialized training in early childhood education, resulting in the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program meeting all 10 of the NIEER quality benchmarks. The state initially exempted teachers hired under earlier requirements, which allowed for a degree in elementary, rather than preschool, education. However, effective in 2009, all teachers in the program are required to earn a preschool-third grade add-on or complete additional early childhood education coursework. In the 2007-2008 school year, an increase in state funding provided access to pre-K for more children, supplied more technical assistance to programs, and enabled the state to provide scholarships for the first time to teachers working toward completing their degrees.

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

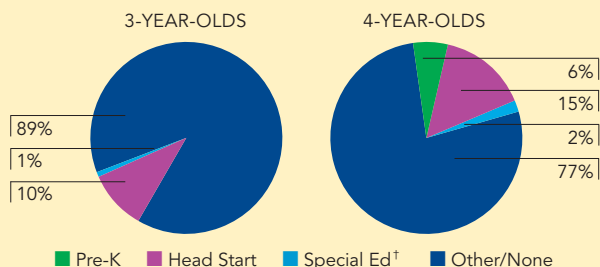
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
14	19

FIRST CLASS: ALABAMA'S VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	3,384
School districts that offer state program	96% (counties)
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	3,658
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	15,370
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

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 ECE (public) or CD (nonpublic) ¹	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	20 ²		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:10 ²		
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health, and support services	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"/>

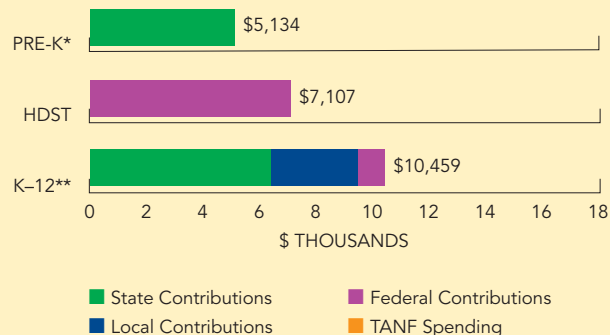
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

10

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$17,374,590
Local match required?	Yes, locally determined match of granted amount
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,134
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$5,134

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 '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ 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.

² Only Head Start programs may have up to 20 children and a ratio of 1:10; other programs have a maximum class size of 18 and ratio of 1:9 which is preferred for all programs.

³ 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.