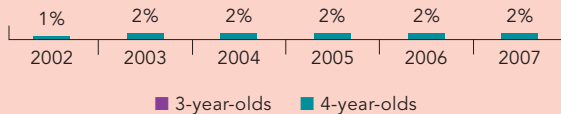
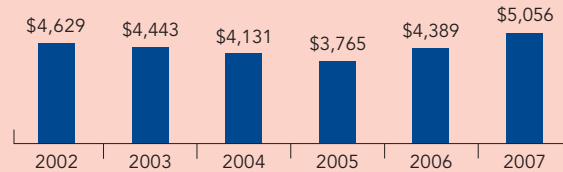


Alabama

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2007 DOLLARS)



Alabama began offering state-funded preschool through the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program in 2000. This initiative serves 4-year-olds and does not have any specific requirements for eligibility beyond meeting the age criteria and being a resident of Alabama. However, statewide enrollment numbers have remained low due to limited resources. Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program sites are selected through a competitive grant process, with the goal of having at least one classroom per county. Currently, classrooms are offered by grantees in 78 percent of the state’s counties. Settings for these classrooms include public schools, Head Start centers, private child care centers, and faith-based centers. All grantees are expected to provide a local match representing 50 percent of their grant award.

Effective with the 2005-2006 school year, the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program revised its teacher certification standards by requiring newly hired teachers to have specialized training in early childhood. This resulted in the program meeting all 10 of the NIEER quality benchmarks for the first time. The state had initially exempted teachers hired under the previous set of requirements (which allowed for a degree in elementary education rather than preschool education) from this new standard. However, all teachers in the program will be required to earn a preschool-third grade add-on to their degree or complete additional early childhood coursework by 2009.

Other recent developments in the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program include the creation of a new system for state prekindergarten program monitors, the availability of additional technical assistance from the state, and the use of a developmental checklist to document children’s growth.

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

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
9*	8

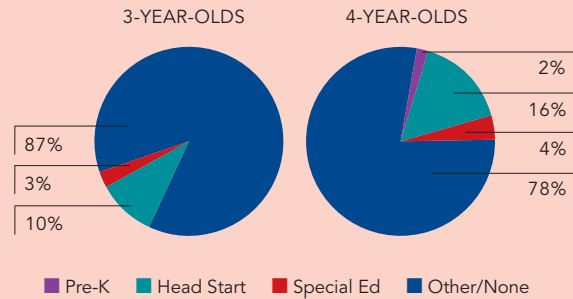
* In previous Yearbooks, only state spending was ranked.

ALABAMA PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment.....	1,062
School districts that offer state program.....	78% (counties)
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	3,910
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.....	15,422
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

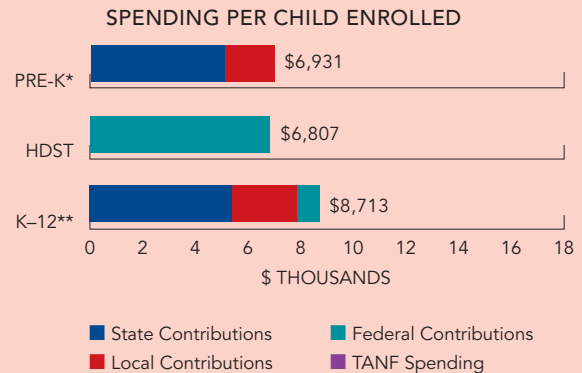
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Degree in CD, ECE, or EE with P-3 add-on ¹	Specializing 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	18		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:9		
Screening/ referral and support services	Vision, hearing, health, dental; and support services ²	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.....	\$5,369,898
Local match required?	Yes, 50% of granted amount
State spending per child enrolled.....	\$5,056
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$6,931



* 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 '06-'07 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Teachers with degrees in elementary education who were hired before the 2005-2006 school year were grandfathered through the 2006-2007 school year, and did not need to have a P-3 add on. However, teachers hired before May 2006 must obtain the P-3 add-on or complete additional early childhood coursework within 3 years.

² 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.