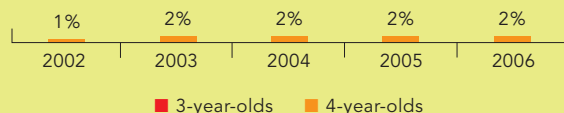
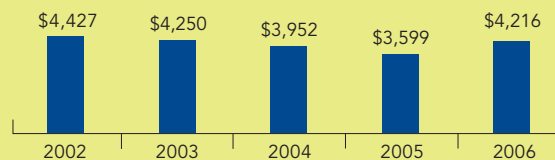


Alabama

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2006 DOLLARS)



The Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program started in 2000 and is operated by public schools, private child care centers, Head Start centers, faith-based centers, universities, and housing authorities. The initiative serves 4-year-olds. Program funding includes state funds as well as required local contributions, which must total at least 50 percent of each program’s funding amount.

The Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program is one of a handful of state programs without specific eligibility criteria. Any 4-year-old may participate in counties that offer the program, although only a small proportion of eligible children are served statewide. In the 2005-2006 school year, the program was offered in 79 percent of Alabama counties, but this percentage has fluctuated with budget changes in recent years, up from 72 percent in 2004-2005 but down from 94 percent a few years earlier.

In 2005-2006, the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program revised its certification requirement for newly hired teachers. Now all teachers in the program must receive certification to teach preschool–third grade, even if they already have a certification that applies to elementary school children.

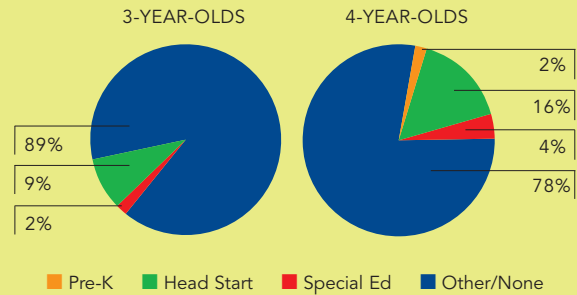
The program is currently in a growth period, having gained the support of the governor’s office, the Business Council of Alabama, and state-level public education representatives. Also, the newly formed Alabama School Readiness Alliance, including corporate foundations and non-profit agencies, is interesting in expanding access to prekindergarten.

ACCESS RANKING–4s	ACCESS RANKING–3s	RESOURCES RANKING
38	None Served	11

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,026
School districts that offer state program	79% (counties)
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	4,025
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	14,894
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

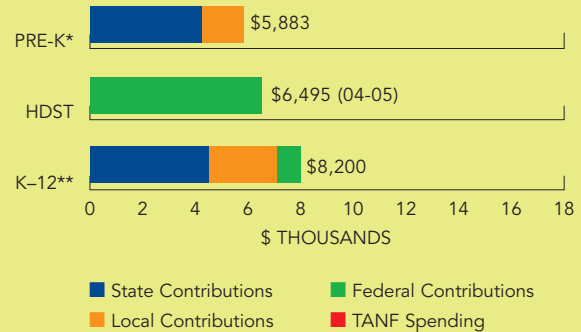
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	✓
Teacher degree	BA	BA	✓
Teacher specialized training	Degree in ECE, EE with P-3 add-on or CD ¹	Specializing in pre-K	✓
Assistant teacher degree	CDA + pre-K experience	CDA or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

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
10

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$4,326,050
Local match required?	Yes, 50% of granted amount
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,216
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$72

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 '05-'06 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ This requirement is effective for new hires beginning with the 2005-2006 school year. Teachers with degrees in elementary education who were hired before the 2005-2006 school year are grandfathered and do not need to have a P-3 add on.

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.