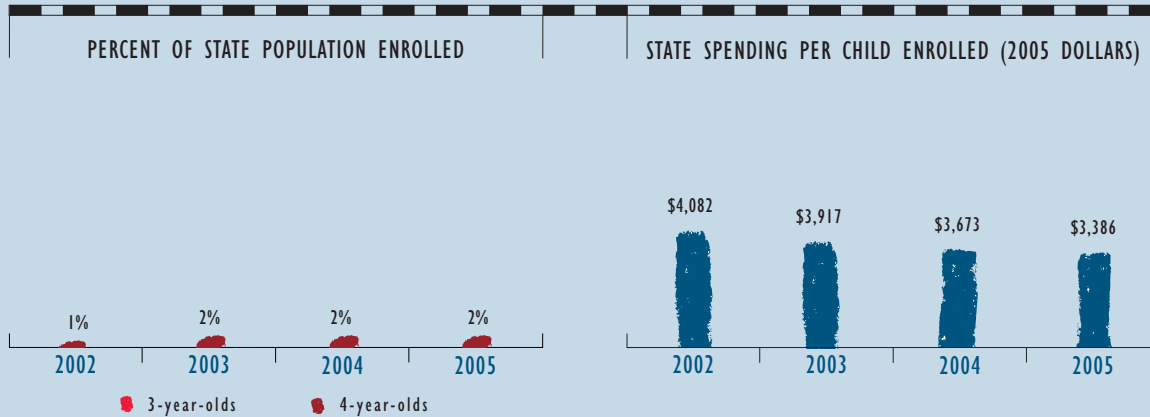


Alabama



The Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program has been serving 4-year-olds since 2000. Programs are funded by a combination of state, federal, and local matching funds and are operated by public schools, private child care centers, Head Start, universities, and community-based organizations. The contribution of local funds to this initiative is substantial—and must total at least 50 percent of each program’s state funding amount.

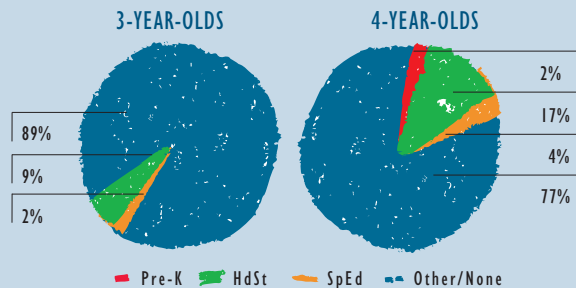
There are no set eligibility criteria, so all 4-year-olds are eligible to participate as long as the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Program is offered in their county. However, due to severe budget cuts effective with the 2003–2004 school year, the program was offered in only 70 percent of the state’s counties, down from 94 percent during the previous school year. Although an additional county was added for 2004–2005, only a small proportion of eligible children were served statewide. Also, TANF funds that were eliminated beginning with the 2003–2004 program year were not replaced with additional state funds. In spite of decreases in funding and enrollment, state administrators continue to promote high-quality standards for the preschool initiative, including a teacher in-service requirement of 40 clock hours per year.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	972
School districts that offer state program	72% (counties)
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	4,013
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	15,674
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

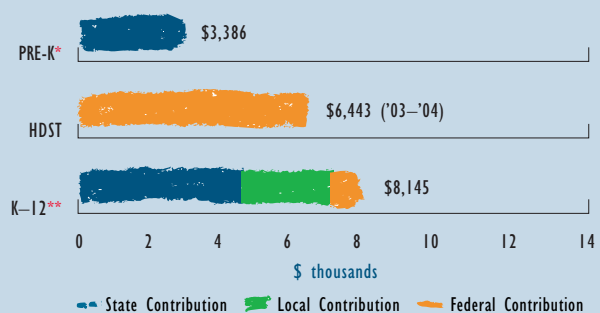
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Degree in ECE, ECSE, EE, or CD ¹	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA + Pre-K experience	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, and dental; and support services ²	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 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"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$3,291,050
Local match required?	Yes—50% of granted amount
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,386
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$56

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 '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Beginning in January 2006, all lead teachers hired with a degree in Elementary Education must also have a P-3 add-on to their certification.

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.