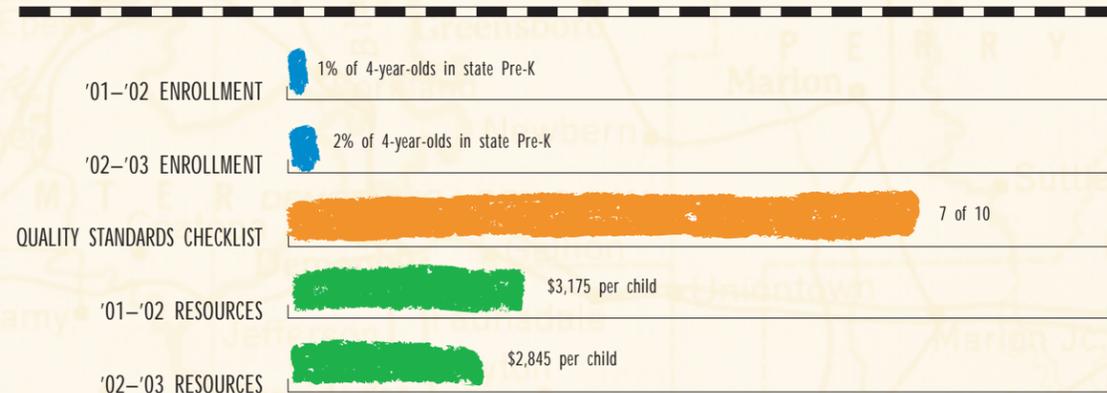


# Alabama



The Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Program began in 2000 and has increased the number of participating sites over the past few years. The initiative is supported with a mix of public and private funds, including state dollars, contributions from the Lucent Technologies Foundation, and an Appalachian Regional Commission Grant. The program serves 4-year-olds. There are no set income or other eligibility criteria, but over half of the children enrolled in the program qualify for free or reduced-price lunch (defined as having an income below 185 percent of poverty). Programs are operated by schools, Head Start programs, nonprofit agencies, and for-profit agencies.

When asked to identify the one thing the state has done to contribute the most to all preschoolers getting a good education, state administrators noted that, through curriculum and professional development training, Alabama has worked to promote professionalism among prekindergarten providers.

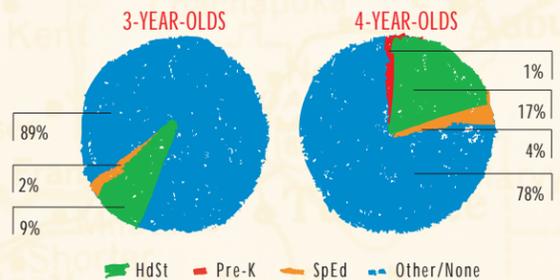
In 2002–2003, the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Program received \$3,584,500 in state funding and served 1,260 4-year-olds.



## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	756
School districts that offer state program	94% (counties)
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Full-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	3,657
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	15,762
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

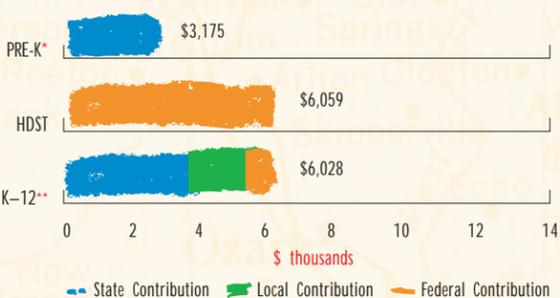
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	None	Comprehensive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Degree in ECE, ECSE, EE, or CD	Specializing in EC	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	CDA	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	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 requirements	Vision, hearing, and dental	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	Family support services and 2 parent conferences	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	Lunch	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$2,400,000 <sup>1</sup>
Local match required?	Yes, site must provide 50% match
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,175
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$40

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> The program also received an additional \$1,375,000 in federal funds during 2001–2002, and \$2,000,000 in federal funds during 2002–2003.