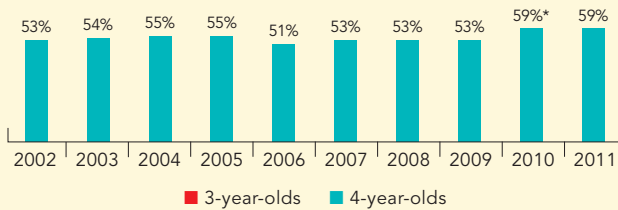
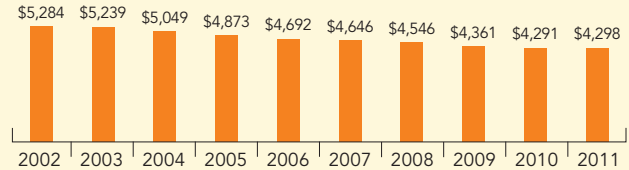


Georgia

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2011 DOLLARS)



Georgia's Pre-K Program, established in 1993, became the nation's first universal preschool program for 4-year-olds in 1995. Funded by state lottery revenues, Georgia's Pre-K Program is available in a variety of settings, including public schools, Head Start agencies, private child care centers, faith-based organizations, military facilities, and state colleges and universities.

All programs must follow the Bright from the Start Pre-K Operating Guidelines. Programs must also base instruction on Georgia's Pre-K Content Standards, which are aligned with the Georgia Early Learning standards for birth through age 3 as well as the Georgia Performance Standards for kindergarten. The state monitors the implementation of these quality standards through on-site monitoring, and began using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) in the 2010-2011 school year to further monitor program quality.

The state implemented the Georgia Pre-K Child Assessment Program, based on the Work Sampling System, during the 2006-2007 school year. Teachers received training on how to use this assessment to document children's progress as well as individualize instruction and can provide parents with two progress reports during the year. These actions facilitate coordination between pre-K and the K-16 system. An online version of the Child Assessment program was piloted in the 2008-2009 school year and included assigning Georgia Testing IDs to pre-K students. During the 2010-2011 school year, 1,150 classes participated in the Work Sampling Online System. The bilingual preschool program started in the 2009-2010 year and was expanded during the 2010-2011 year, offering several dual-language programs throughout the state.

Since the 2008-2009 program year, Georgia has required a minimum of a CDA for assistant teachers. The 2010-2011 school year represents the first year lead teachers were required to have a bachelor's degree, though a waiver process will help current teachers transition to this new requirement, which brings Georgia's benchmarks total up to 10. In response to a recent evaluation conducted by the FPG Child Development Institute at UNC Chapel Hill, Georgia is revising its professional development requirements.

In response to budgetary constraints, Georgia's Pre-K Program underwent a number of changes starting in the 2011-2012 school year. The program runs on a nine- instead of 10-month calendar and the maximum class size was increased to 22 children. Some programs are securing additional funding to continue operating the program on a 10-month schedule, which will lead to diversity in schedule across the state. This change will lead to a loss of two benchmarks for quality standards. Reduction in funding per child, which accompanies this, is anticipated to lead Georgia to drop further in the rankings.

* Percentages served prior to 2010 are not perfectly comparable to 2010 and 2011. The latter figures use data from the 2010 Census, whereas the earlier figures are based on population estimates.

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

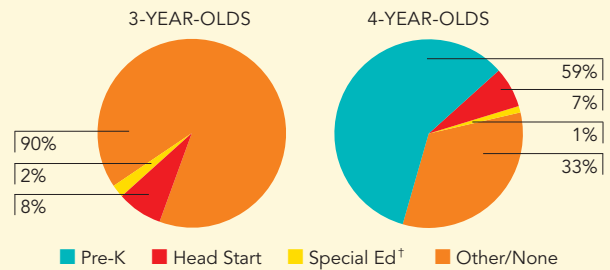
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
19	24

GEORGIA'S PRE-K PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	82,608
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement.....	None
Hours of operation	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,139
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	22,250
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?	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET 10 </div>
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	✓	
Teacher degree	BA ¹	BA	✓	
Teacher specialized training	Degree and certification in ECE or meet Montessori requirements ¹	Specializing in pre-K	✓	
Assistant teacher degree.....	CDA	CDA or equivalent	✓	
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	✓	
Maximum class size		20 or lower	✓	
3-year-olds	NA			
4-year-olds	20			
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	✓	
3-year-olds	NA			
4-year-olds	1:10			
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health, dental; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	✓	
Meals	Lunch	At least 1/day	✓	
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	✓	

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$355,016,016
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,298
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,299

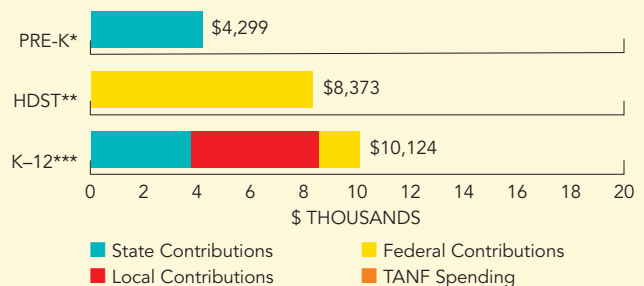
* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2010-2011 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ As of the 2010-2011 year, all newly hired teachers must have a BA in all settings. Teachers already working with an AA will receive waivers, though they must demonstrate continual progress toward a BA and may not transfer to another position.

² Blended Pre-K Program/Head Start classrooms are required to have developmental screenings as well. All Georgia's Pre-K programs are required to ask parents if their child has received his/her developmental health screening, and provide a referral

and appropriate follow-up to those children who have not. Children who are eligible for Medicaid or PeachCare (Georgia's SCHIP's program) are required to have a 4-year-old developmental screening. Support services include annual parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities, nutrition information, referral for social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and other locally determined support services.