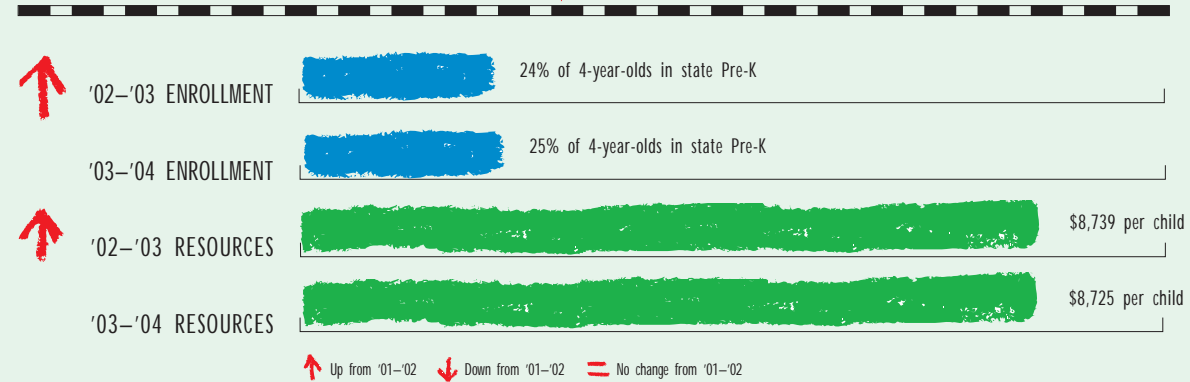


# New Jersey



In 1998, the New Jersey Supreme Court mandated that all children in the state's 30 highest poverty districts—known as Abbott districts—be provided with a high-quality preschool education to prepare them with the skills and abilities necessary for success in elementary school. The result of this ruling is that quality preschool programs are offered to all 3- and 4-year-old children in districts where at least 40 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Funds from the Department of Education are used by public schools, Head Start programs, and private child care centers to provide full-day services (6 hours per day). Additional money from the Department of Human Services funds extended-day services. The school districts are responsible for ensuring that individual programs meet the standards set out by the state Supreme Court. These standards include requirements regarding teacher certification, curriculum, class size, facilities, and comprehensive services. The Abbott program now supplies full funding for teacher salaries, providing qualified teachers in private centers with salaries comparable to the public schools. The program was expanded to include one additional district in summer 2004.

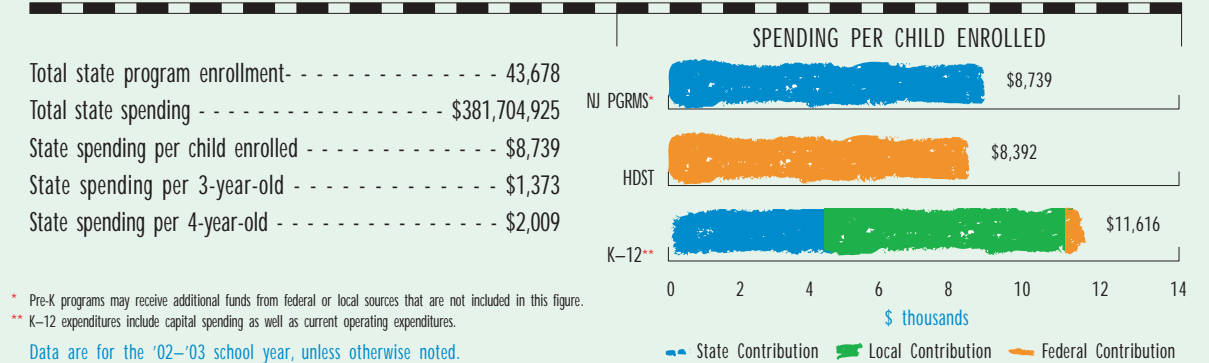
In addition to the Abbott prekindergarten initiative, state funds are provided for Non-Abbott Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA), which allow an additional 102 districts to offer half-day preschool mostly to 4-year-olds. Funds through this initiative are available to districts in which 20 to 40 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. The majority of programs are in public schools, but some operate in Head Start or private child care centers. Districts that receive ECPA funds are also required to provide full-day kindergarten. While primarily used to provide preschool and full-day kindergarten services, some ECPA funds are used for grades 1 to 3.

New Jersey is working toward improving quality in the ECPA districts by aligning standards with the high-quality program standards for the Abbott districts. The development of Abbott and Non-Abbott versions of the Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines provides districts with guidance for implementing state expectations and the enhancement of quality preschool programs. In addition, revisions to state code regulating the ECPA program were presented to the State Board of Education in September 2004.

In 2003–2004, Abbott programs received \$365 million in state funds from the Department of Education to serve 37,765 children (supplemented by \$114.5 million from the Department of Human Services). ECPA received an estimated \$30 million to serve 7,509 children. Also, New Jersey is seeking to expand access to preschool for 4-year-olds through the new Early Launch to Learning Initiative (ELLI). The state has set aside \$15 million to potentially serve another 4,000 low-income preschoolers throughout the state in fiscal year 2005.

Although most states have a single state-financed prekindergarten initiative, New Jersey makes significant contributions to prekindergarten through two separate initiatives—the Abbott program and ECPA. As a result, in the first two pages of this profile we present summary information reflecting the state's overall commitment to prekindergarten. Enrollment and state spending for both the Abbott and ECPA initiatives are taken into account. Next, we present specific details about each initiative in the state. The third page of this profile focuses exclusively on the Abbott program, while the final page focuses exclusively on the ECPA program.

## STATE OVERVIEW

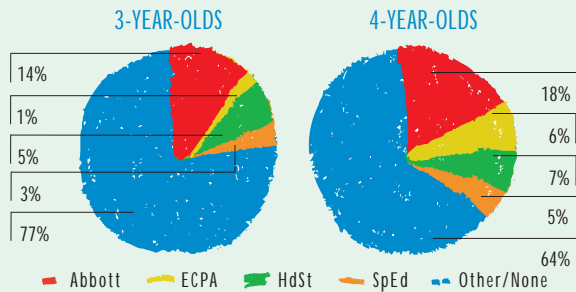


## NEW JERSEY ABBOTT PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

### ACCESS

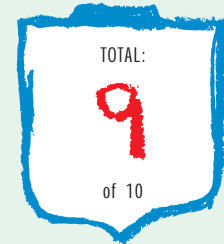
Total state program enrollment	36,465
School districts that offer state program	6%
Income requirement	None <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation	Full-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Determined locally <sup>2</sup>
Special education enrollment	9,304
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	13,141
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



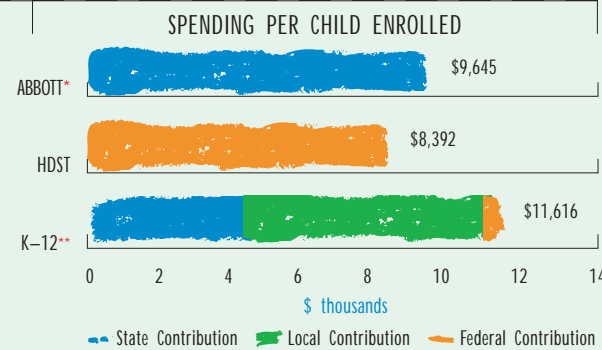
### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA <sup>3</sup>	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	EC certificate <sup>3</sup>	Specializing in Pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	100 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	15		
4-year-olds	15		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	2:15		
4-year-olds	2:15		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision, hearing, health, and developmental	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	Support services <sup>4</sup>	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	Breakfast, lunch, and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



### RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$351,704,925 <sup>5</sup>
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$9,645
State spending per 3-year-old	\$1,349
State spending per 4-year-old	\$1,768



\* 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 '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> While there are no income eligibility criteria for individual children, only districts where at least 40 percent of children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch receive funding through this initiative. All 3- and 4-year-old children within those districts are eligible to participate.

<sup>2</sup> Programs are required to operate for a minimum of 6 hours per day, 180 days per year. Funds from the Department of Human Services are combined with Department of Education funds to operate year-round programs that provide services for up to 10 hours per day.

<sup>3</sup> Teachers who worked in center-based programs before the degree requirement was implemented and have made sufficient progress toward the BA must meet the degree requirement by September 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Support services include parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. All programs conduct parent conferences, although the required number of annual conferences is not specified.

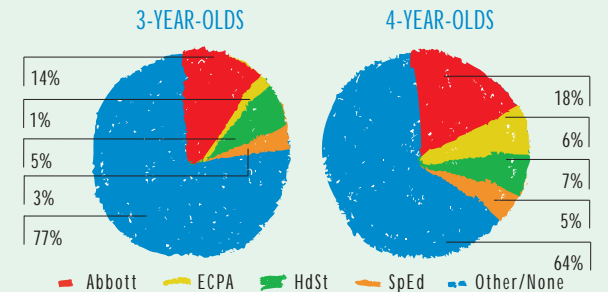
<sup>5</sup> This total does not include \$121 million from the Department of Human Services used to fund extended-day services.

## NEW JERSEY NON-ABBOTT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM AID

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	7,213
School districts that offer state program	19%
Income requirement	None <sup>1</sup>
Hours of operation	Half-day, full-week <sup>2</sup>
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	9,304
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	13,141
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



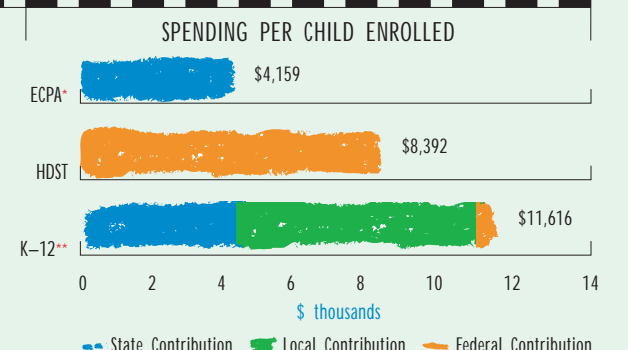
### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Certification in EC or EE	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	100 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit		
4-year-olds	No limit		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	No limit		
4-year-olds	No limit		
Screening/referral requirements	Vision, hearing, and health	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	Support services <sup>3</sup>	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



### RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$30,000,000 <sup>4</sup>
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,159
State spending per 3-year-old	\$24
State spending per 4-year-old	\$241



\* 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 '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> While there are no income eligibility criteria for individual children, only districts where 20 to 40 percent of children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch receive funding through this initiative. All 3- and 4-year-old children within those districts are eligible to participate.

<sup>2</sup> Programs must operate a minimum of 3 hours per day.

<sup>3</sup> Support services include education services or job training for parents, transition to kindergarten activities, and other services that are determined locally.

<sup>4</sup> This figure is an estimate of state funds directed to services for preschool-age children.