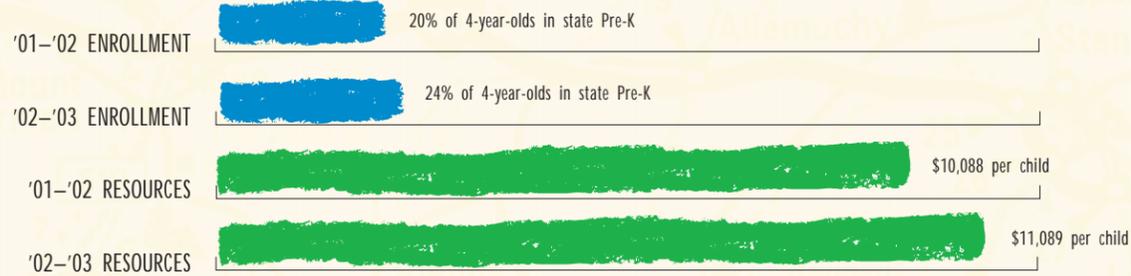


New Jersey



In 1998, New Jersey's Supreme Court mandated that all children in the state's Abbott districts (defined as New Jersey's 30 highest poverty districts) receive a high-quality preschool education. The goal of the Abbott program is to prepare children to enter kindergarten with skills and abilities comparable to those of their wealthier suburban peers. Abbott districts are those in which at least 40 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. All 3- and 4-year-olds in these districts are eligible to enroll. Services are provided through public schools and Head Start or private child care programs. School districts are given the primary responsibility of ensuring that all programs, regardless of setting, meet standards for quality set out by the State Supreme Court related to teacher certification, class size, curriculum, facilities, and comprehensive services. In 2001–2002, Abbott classes began operating on a full-day schedule. Funds from the Department of Education are used to provide six hours of services per day, and additional funds from the Department of Human Services are used to extend program operations to 10 hours per day.

In addition to the Abbott program, New Jersey also funds Non-Abbott Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA), a separate initiative that provides mostly half-day preschool services to 4-year-olds in 102 districts. Non-Abbott ECPA funds are available to districts in which 20 to 40 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. ECPA is available to all 4-year-old children in eligible districts. Most classrooms are in public schools, but a small percentage of students are served in private settings. Though preschool and kindergarten service is a program priority, some funds are used for grades 1 to 3.

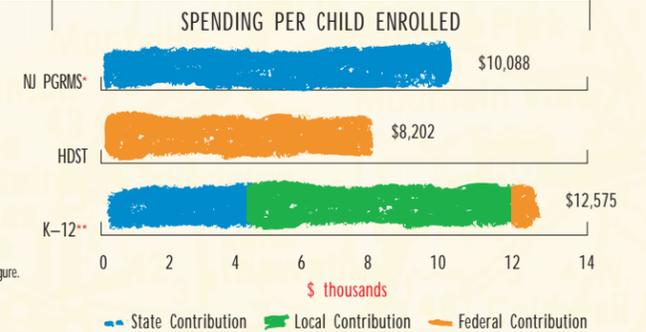
New Jersey has recently focused on defining specific program and learning standards for both state-financed initiatives.

In 2002–2003, Abbott programs received \$454,354,000 in state funds to serve 36,465 children. Non-Abbott ECPA received an estimated \$30,000,000 to serve 7,213 children. Early childhood education programs in New Jersey received budget increases beyond cost-of-living adjustments for fiscal year 2004. The additional funding was a result of both increased enrollment and an effort to improve quality in both of the state-financed programs.

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

STATE OVERVIEW

Total state program enrollment	36,666
Total state spending	\$369,882,105
State spending per child enrolled	\$10,088
State spending per 3-year-old	\$1,277
State spending per 4-year-old	\$1,922



* 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.

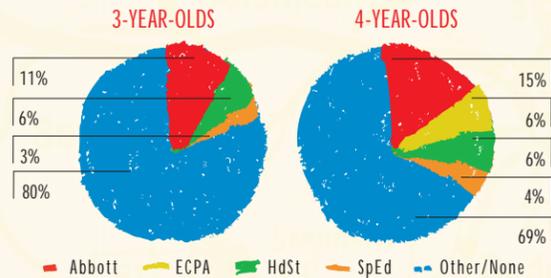


NEW JERSEY ABBOTT PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	29,824
School districts that offer state program	6%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Full-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Academic year ¹
Special education enrollment	8,483
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	13,964
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



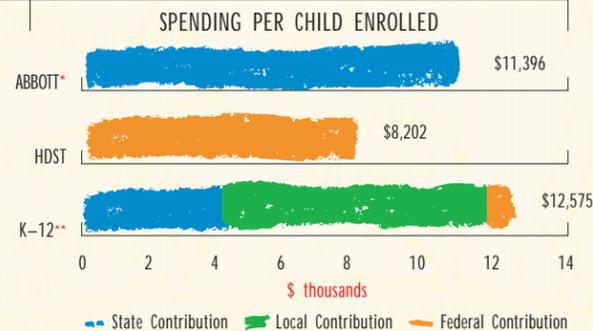
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA ²	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	EC certificate ²	Specializing in EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	None	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, and health	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	Family support services ³	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	Breakfast and lunch	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL: **9** of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$339,882,105 ⁴
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$11,396
State spending per 3-year-old	\$1,274
State spending per 4-year-old	\$1,668



* 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.

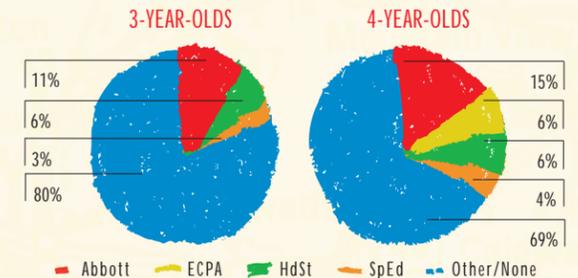
- All children enrolled in the Abbott program are also eligible for free summer and wrap-around services.
- Teachers who worked in center-based programs before the degree requirement was implemented have until September 2004 to meet the requirement.
- Programs are required to have one family worker employed for every 40 families served. The family worker offers community referrals, education and support.
- This total represents contributions of \$233,882,105 from the Department of Education and \$106,000,000 from the Department of Human Services.

NEW JERSEY NON-ABBOTT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM AID

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	6,842
School districts that offer state program	19%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Half-day, full-week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,483
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	13,964
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



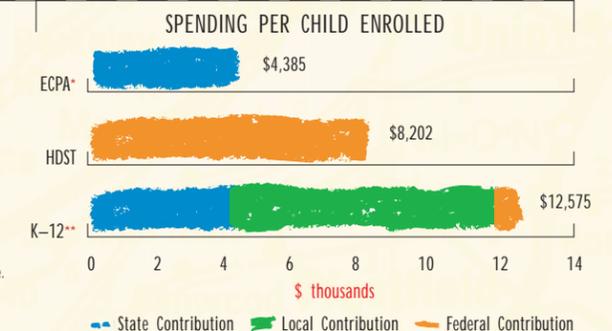
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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 EC	<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 ¹		
4-year-olds	No limit ¹		
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"/>
Family support service requirements	Family support services	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL: **5** of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$30,000,000 ²
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,385
State spending per 3-year-old	\$3
State spending per 4-year-old	\$254



* 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.

- Class sizes range from 2 to 31, with most between 15 and 20. The average class size was 12.4, but this figure includes classes for children with disabilities.
- This figure represents an estimate. New Jersey contributed a total of \$97 million to ECPA, but these funds were also used for services to children in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3. Programs for preschoolers and kindergarteners received priority for ECPA funds.