

Georgia's Pre-K Program at Risk

Access to Quality Pre-K Classrooms Key to Georgia Remaining a Leader in Early Learning

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Overview

Georgia's reputation as a leader in early childhood education is slipping away. Despite an abundance of evidence that early learning is a key to success later in life, particularly for low-income and at-risk youth, recent spending cuts mean Georgia's Pre-Kindergarten program will serve 2,000 fewer children in the coming school year. Class sizes have grown, the school year has been shortened and Pre-K centers have less money to work with.

With the state struggling to boost the knowledge and skills of its workforce to meet the demands of a modern economy, cuts to Pre-K are short-sighted and counterproductive. Pre-K education is an important upfront investment for K-12 education and beyond.

How the state responds to Pre-K funding challenges will determine the broader fate of education in Georgia and have a tremendous impact on the state's economy. Lawmakers should enhance access to Pre-K education and improve its quality by investing more in the program, not less. Doing so not only prepares Georgia children for success in their elementary and secondary education, but also positions Georgia's future workforce to successfully compete for good paying jobs.

This report examines Pre-K expenditures and participation rates across Georgia's 159 counties and finds:

- The Pre-K program greatly benefits low-income households, with nearly 70 percent of participating households reporting incomes of \$40,000 or less. Accordingly, funding cuts to Pre-K largely impact low-income Georgia children. Research indicates that at-risk and low-income students benefit greatly from early childhood learning opportunities.
- Pre-K funding has been cut by \$56 million since 2011, resulting in fewer Pre-K slots, larger classroom sizes, and a shorter school year.
- The availability of Pre-K slots in counties compares closely to the percentage of young children in those counties.
- Lottery dollars allocated across counties for Pre-K closely compare to the percentage of young children in those counties.

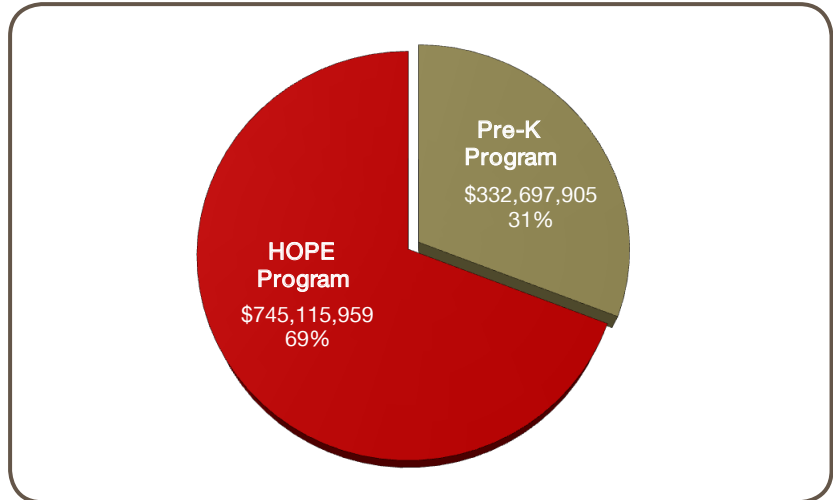
Background

Established in 1992 as a pilot program for 750 4-years-olds from low-income families, Georgia's Pre-K program has grown to serve more than 84,000 Georgia children. Administered by Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning, the program is open to all 4-year-olds in Georgia's 159 counties.

Pre-K, like HOPE scholarships for college students, is funded with revenue from the Georgia Lottery. However, HOPE's increasing cost threatens the viability of both programs. In recent years, Pre-K has typically received about one-third of annual lottery dollars set aside for education. For 2011, a total of \$1.1 billion was allocated, with Pre-K receiving \$332.7 million and HOPE getting the rest.

These lottery dollars funded 84,300 Pre-K slots across Georgia's 159 counties, with an average cost of \$3,947 per pupil. The funding per slot varies across counties and is based on location, teacher credential, type of provider (public versus private), and the number of students. See appendix for breakdown of Pre-K slots and expenditure by county.

Chart 1 Pre-K Receives about a Third of Total Education Lottery Dollars, FY 2011



Source: Georgia Student Finance Commission and Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL).

Pre-K funding has been cut sharply in recent years as a result of HOPE's increasing financial demands. For FY 2012, the cuts meant 20 fewer Pre-K school days, an increase in class size, and pay cuts for teachers. Though 10 school days will be restored in the coming year, the \$298.6 million in lottery funding allocated to Pre-K is a 15.9 percent cut from FY 2011 funding (Table 1). Consequently, 2,000 Pre-K slots will be eliminated.

Table 1 Pre-K Funding Has Decreased: Funding Changes FY 2011 - FY 2013

	FY 2011 Enacted Budget	FY 2012 Enacted Budget	FY 2013 Enacted Budget	FY 2012 - FY 2013 Change (\$)	FY 2012 - FY 2013 Change (%)	FY 2011 - FY 2013 Change (\$)	FY 2011 - FY 2013 Change (%)
State General Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
Lottery Funds	\$355,016,656	\$300,632,586	\$298,602,245	(\$2,030,341)	-0.7%	(\$56,414,411)	-15.9%
Total Funding	\$355,016,656	\$300,632,586	\$298,602,245	(\$2,030,341)	-0.7%	(\$56,414,411)	-15.9%

Source: Enacted Budget Reports, FY 2011-FY2013.

Note: Lottery revenue for Pre-K program is not tax dollars and is not included in the state's General Funds.

Who Benefits: Pre-K Slots and Participation

The Pre-K program is universal, and thus is available to all 4-year-old Georgia children. Comparing the percent of total Pre-K slots available in each county to the percent of Georgia's 4-year-olds in each county provides insight into how equitable slots are distributed across counties.

Data on the number of 4-year-olds in each of Georgia's 159 counties does not exist. Therefore, the total number of Georgia children under the age of 5-years-old in each county is used as a proxy measure of the distribution of young children across Georgia counties.

- The number of Pre-K slots across counties is comparable to the percentage of children under the age of 5-year-olds in those counties (Table 2).
- The distribution of lottery dollars for Pre-K is comparable to the share of children across Georgia's 159 counties. Funding per Pre-K slot is based on various factors and differs across Pre-K centers and counties. However, the percentage of total lottery Pre-K dollars going to counties is comparable to the percentage of Georgia's young children across counties.

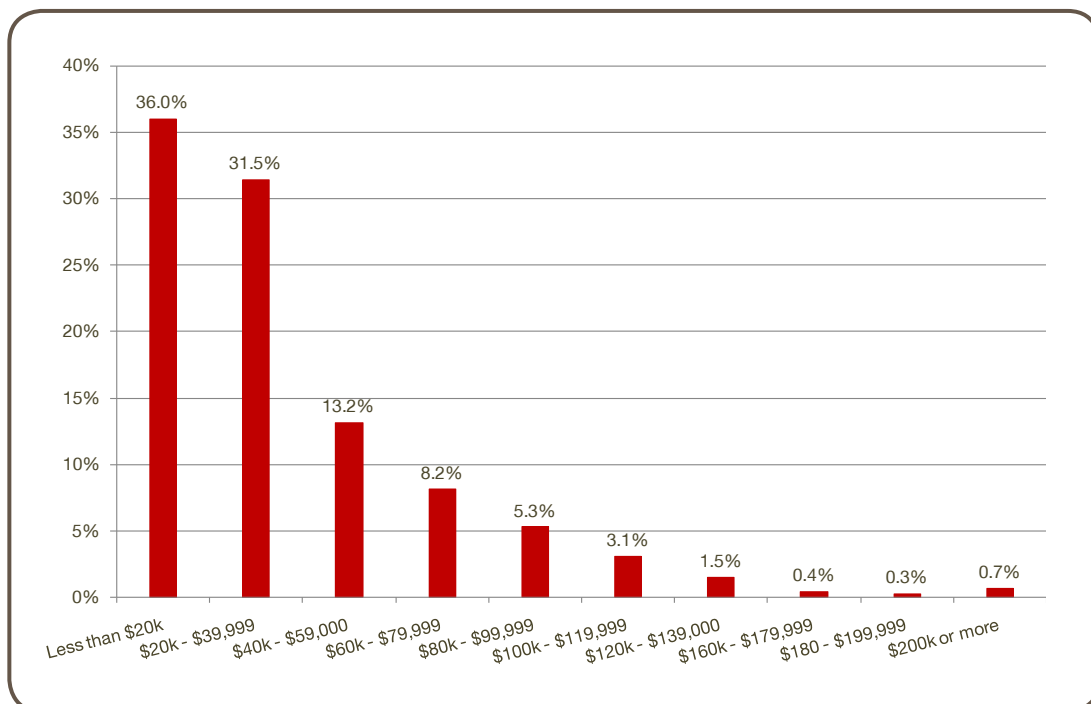
In examining the distribution of Pre-K benefits, Georgia's 159 counties are ranked according to median household income for each county. Subsequently, the percent of total Pre-K slots and the percent of total Pre-K lottery dollars allocated to each county are compared to the percent of total Georgia children under the age of 5-years-old in each county. See appendix for breakdown by county. Table 2 summarizes the results by median household income ranges for counties.

Table 2 Comparable Distribution of Pre-K Slots, Lottery Dollars and Georgia Children, FY 2009 & FY 2010

County-level Median Household Income	2010 % Georgia Population Under 5 years	FY 2011 % Total Pre-K Slots	2011 % Pre-K Expenditures
\$23,887 - \$31,200	4.11%	4.77%	5.02%
\$31,216 - \$34,000	7.40%	8.37%	9.19%
\$34,445 - \$37,866	16.48%	17.30%	17.79%
\$37,990 - \$45,804	15.01%	15.42%	15.52%
\$46,292 - 81,629	57.00%	54.14%	52.48%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: US Census Bureau (2010) and Bright from the Start: Department of Early Care and Learning (Pre-K).

Chart 2 Low-income Households Benefit Most from Pre-K Program FY 2009 and FY 2010



Source: Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts.

An estimated 80 percent of Georgia households participating in Pre-K reported annual incomes of \$60,000 or less (Chart 2).

Early childhood education offers greater benefits to low-income and at-risk youth than to kids from more affluent households.¹ Since Georgia's Pre-K program serves a large number of 4-year-olds from low- and moderate- income households, the program serves as a great investment for the state's limited lottery dollars, producing high returns in terms of preparing kids for school.

■ Policy Considerations

Georgia has been regarded as a leader in early childhood learning because of its investment in universal Pre-K. In 2011, the program received the highest possible quality rating from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). However, cuts made by policymakers since then threaten that reputation, as well as Georgia's economic future.

Early education is important for all children.² Extensive research and studies exist that highlights the benefits of investing in quality early learning opportunities, which include preparing young children to succeed in school, fewer crimes committed and increased future earnings. Investments in early education can also be considered as an economic development strategy. Researchers at the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank find that early education investments yield a return that far exceeds the return on most public projects that are considered economic development.³ Nobel Prize winner James Heckman notes that "skill begets skill; learning begets more learning," thus, because skills are accumulated, early investment in youth development reduces the likelihood of academic and social difficulties in later years.⁴

With HOPE's financial woes expected to persist in the years ahead, lawmakers will face some tough choices. However, efforts to bolster HOPE should not come at further expense to Pre-K.

Pre-K should remain a priority given the benefits of early education to Georgia's economy over the long term and actions should be taken to eliminate the current Pre-K waitlist.

Every dollar spent on quality early education saves taxpayers up to \$13 in future costs.⁵ Children are likely to struggle through elementary and high school if they enter kindergarten lacking the intellectual and social skills necessary for a lifetime of learning and development. Considering the long-term benefits of early investment in Georgia children, the Pre-K program should be expanded to serve the 8,500 children currently on the Pre-K waitlist.⁶ In ensuring that early learning remains a priority in Georgia, efforts should be made to ensure that a Pre-K slot is available to every four-year old desiring to participate in the program.

Quality of Pre-K classrooms enhances the learning experience of children.

Disinvestment in Georgia's Pre-K program has adversely impacted the quality of Pre-K centers across the state. Less funding means fewer resources available for developing the cognitive and social skills of Georgia children. Increased class sizes limit the amount of individual interaction available to children while reduced teacher salaries has resulted in Pre-K teachers exiting Pre-K classrooms. Enhancing and maintaining quality Pre-K classrooms is critical to getting the most out of investments in early childhood learning. Georgia's Pre-K program can once again become, and remain, a high quality program – as measured by the National Institute for Early Education Research – by allocating the appropriate level of resources to the program. This requires reprioritizing limited lottery education dollars.

Cuts to the Pre-K program disproportionately impact low- and moderate income Georgia families.

The majority of children served by Georgia's Pre-K program are from low- and moderate income families. Nearly 70 percent of Georgia households participating in the Pre-K program reported incomes of \$40,000 or less for FY 2009 and FY 2010. Further funding cuts not only threaten the quality of Pre-K program, but also impact access to early childhood learning for Georgia children who benefit the most from the program.

The best way to increase the chances of Georgia students finishing strong is to ensure that they start strong. Georgia can demonstrate its commitment to a strong start and finish for all Georgia youth by making early education a true priority. Limiting access to high-quality Pre-K centers not only threatens the quality of Georgia K-12 education system, but also the quality of its future workforce. This is something Georgia truly cannot afford.



Appendix

Table 1 Georgia Demographics, Lottery Sales, and Pre-K Expenditures (by County)

	Georgia County	Quintile Rank	Median Household Income 2010	Population Under 5 Years 2010	Population 18 and Over 2010	High School Diploma or Less	College Degree or Higher	Total Lottery Sales 2011	Per Capita Lottery Sales 2011	Total Pre-K Revenue 2011	Total Pre-K Slots 2011	Average \$ Per Slot 2011
1	APPLING	3rd	\$36,601	1,313	13,542	68.5%	8.3%	\$6,458,012	\$476.89	\$1,039,770	220	\$4,726.23
2	ATKINSON	5th	\$28,579	712	5,945	73.4%	8.0%	\$2,676,216	\$450.16	\$455,548	100	\$4,555.48
3	BACON	4th	\$31,692	821	8,270	72.5%	7.4%	\$4,117,222	\$497.85	\$402,824	80	\$5,035.30
4	BAKER	4th	\$33,950	221	2,650	62.9%	12.2%	\$1,371,984	\$517.73	\$87,032	20	\$4,351.59
5	BALDWIN	3rd	\$36,091	2,789	36,369	58.2%	18.4%	\$22,556,486	\$620.21	\$1,384,225	380	\$3,642.70
6	BANKS	2nd	\$42,196	1,140	13,752	69.4%	10.5%	\$3,681,594	\$267.71	\$250,036	80	\$3,125.45
7	BARROW	1st	\$52,391	5,827	49,778	54.8%	14.9%	\$21,693,056	\$435.80	\$2,850,457	740	\$3,851.97
8	BARTOW	2nd	\$43,825	7,011	73,357	61.3%	16.5%	\$34,344,057	\$468.18	\$3,264,890	840	\$3,886.77
9	BEN HILL	5th	\$29,910	1,393	12,966	66.6%	12.3%	\$9,967,640	\$768.75	\$803,799	180	\$4,465.55
10	BERRIEN	4th	\$32,859	1,331	14,347	63.4%	10.8%	\$6,151,788	\$428.79	\$686,604	160	\$4,291.28
11	BIBB	3rd	\$36,220	11,510	115,428	50.3%	23.1%	\$71,810,232	\$622.12	\$4,734,964	1,220	\$3,881.12
12	BLECKLEY	2nd	\$38,513	758	10,114	70.3%	10.1%	\$5,257,230	\$519.80	\$785,978	160	\$4,912.36
13	BRANTLEY	3rd	\$35,732	1,326	13,518	71.6%	4.9%	\$4,664,432	\$345.05	\$971,402	200	\$4,857.01
14	BROOKS	4th	\$32,067	1,088	12,393	58.3%	15.8%	\$6,702,326	\$540.82	\$502,974	120	\$4,191.45
15	BRYAN	1st	\$65,478	2,207	21,376	40.3%	27.6%	\$12,467,475	\$583.25	\$1,516,273	380	\$3,990.19
16	BULLOCH	4th	\$31,943	4,213	55,824	46.7%	25.2%	\$22,752,506	\$407.58	\$2,465,555	600	\$4,109.26
17	BURKE	5th	\$30,688	1,798	16,731	66.7%	9.1%	\$10,627,873	\$635.22	\$1,249,512	300	\$4,165.04
18	BUTTS	2nd	\$43,777	1,419	18,330	68.6%	9.1%	\$11,196,229	\$610.81	\$638,731	200	\$3,193.65
19	CALHOUN	5th	\$28,618	368	5,374	68.6%	8.7%	\$2,523,386	\$469.55	\$166,716	40	\$4,167.89
20	CAMDEN	1st	\$48,967	3,991	36,861	44.3%	20.4%	\$15,376,120	\$417.14	\$2,212,000	560	\$3,950.00
21	CANDLER	5th	\$30,496	792	8,179	68.2%	13.2%	\$5,042,308	\$616.49	\$613,186	140	\$4,379.90
22	CARROLL	2nd	\$45,242	7,847	82,403	56.3%	18.3%	\$40,772,846	\$494.80	\$4,561,471	1,120	\$4,072.74
23	CATOOSA	1st	\$47,337	4,092	48,002	49.4%	17.3%	\$23,916,996	\$498.25	\$2,212,126	560	\$3,950.23
24	CHARLTON	4th	\$32,316	730	9,529	70.0%	7.2%	\$3,345,642	\$351.10	\$389,630	80	\$4,870.38
25	CHATHAM	2nd	\$42,728	18,559	205,121	42.3%	29.0%	\$116,401,356	\$567.48	\$8,575,287	2,260	\$3,794.37
26	CHATTAHOOCHEE	1st	\$46,292	1,070	8,214	27.8%	31.5%	\$1,585,524	\$193.03	\$449,338	120	\$3,744.48

Table 1 Georgia Demographics, Lottery Sales, and Pre-K Expenditures (by County), *Continued*

	Georgia County	Quintile Rank	Median Household Income 2010	Population Under 5 Years 2010	Population 18 and Over 2010	High School Diploma or Less	College Degree or Higher	Total Lottery Sales 2011	Per Capita Lottery Sales 2011	Total Pre-K Revenue 2011	Total Pre-K Slots 2011	Average \$ Per Slot 2011
27	CHATTOOGA	4th	\$33,990	1,587	20,157	68.7%	8.0%	\$12,287,995	\$609.61	\$1,000,827	220	\$4,549.22
28	CHEROKEE	1st	\$63,520	15,862	155,426	35.6%	33.6%	\$47,753,547	\$307.24	\$6,923,548	1,760	\$3,933.83
29	CLARKE	4th	\$34,000	7,003	96,291	37.6%	41.2%	\$37,757,357	\$392.12	\$4,016,963	1,000	\$4,016.96
30	CLAY	5th	\$27,080	204	2,466	68.0%	8.5%	\$2,934,333	\$1,189.92	\$174,699	40	\$4,367.47
31	CLAYTON	3rd	\$36,595	22,051	184,445	50.5%	17.9%	\$107,181,474	\$581.10	\$9,507,195	2,480	\$3,833.55
32	CLINCH	5th	\$30,428	523	4,955	66.8%	17.1%	\$2,836,021	\$572.36	\$374,047	100	\$3,740.47
33	COBB	1st	\$59,471	48,165	511,591	30.2%	43.8%	\$172,217,725	\$336.63	\$16,726,100	4,380	\$3,818.74
34	COFFEE	4th	\$33,527	3,092	31,255	63.8%	11.0%	\$15,618,401	\$499.71	\$1,983,363	440	\$4,507.64
35	COLQUITT	4th	\$32,010	3,776	32,914	66.5%	11.2%	\$20,173,209	\$612.91	\$2,791,126	620	\$4,501.82
36	COLUMBIA	1st	\$64,435	8,312	90,243	36.8%	33.8%	\$29,505,232	\$326.95	\$4,145,892	1,080	\$3,838.79
37	COOK	4th	\$32,244	1,308	12,530	65.6%	10.4%	\$8,425,909	\$672.46	\$1,057,146	220	\$4,805.21
38	COWETA	1st	\$56,407	9,294	92,485	45.5%	25.7%	\$44,956,175	\$486.09	\$4,837,494	1,220	\$3,965.16
39	CRAWFORD	2nd	\$41,593	733	9,762	61.3%	13.6%	\$2,731,034	\$279.76	\$357,170	80	\$4,464.62
40	CRISP	3rd	\$35,232	1,688	17,317	65.3%	11.7%	\$12,909,690	\$745.49	\$1,274,911	300	\$4,249.70
41	DADE	2nd	\$40,161	915	13,047	55.0%	16.8%	\$11,959,578	\$916.65	\$628,950	140	\$4,492.50
42	DAWSON	1st	\$51,127	1,273	17,247	54.5%	18.8%	\$6,930,691	\$401.85	\$945,224	260	\$3,635.48
43	DECATUR	4th	\$33,288	1,865	20,760	60.6%	12.5%	\$16,841,959	\$811.27	\$1,403,664	300	\$4,678.88
44	DEKALB	1st	\$47,068	50,508	526,757	34.8%	38.7%	\$247,654,960	\$470.15	\$20,980,001	5,440	\$3,856.62
45	DODGE	4th	\$33,731	1,351	16,719	65.1%	13.8%	\$7,283,568	\$435.65	\$936,134	220	\$4,255.16
46	DOOLY	4th	\$32,216	850	11,759	71.0%	9.6%	\$4,722,866	\$401.64	\$418,167	100	\$4,181.67
47	DOUGHERTY	5th	\$31,200	7,187	70,231	48.6%	19.6%	\$78,816,191	\$1,122.24	\$3,148,126	860	\$3,660.61
48	DOUGLAS	1st	\$52,887	9,798	94,870	46.4%	23.7%	\$48,727,391	\$513.62	\$4,218,505	1,120	\$3,766.52
49	EARLY	5th	\$30,572	716	8,107	64.8%	13.5%	\$13,253,397	\$1,634.81	\$496,720	120	\$4,139.33
50	ECHOLS	4th	\$32,674	359	2,851	75.7%	6.1%	\$434,229	\$152.31	\$168,117	40	\$4,202.93
51	EFFINGHAM	1st	\$60,017	3,658	37,344	57.4%	15.5%	\$16,201,468	\$433.84	\$2,412,789	560	\$4,308.55
52	ELBERT	4th	\$32,888	1,311	15,467	70.0%	9.6%	\$9,645,102	\$623.59	\$750,770	160	\$4,692.31
53	EMANUEL	5th	\$30,985	1,650	16,850	66.8%	9.7%	\$11,215,644	\$665.62	\$1,296,219	280	\$4,629.36
54	EVANS	4th	\$32,427	847	8,163	63.2%	13.4%	\$5,140,408	\$629.72	\$656,800	140	\$4,691.43
55	FANNIN	4th	\$33,253	1,137	19,151	61.8%	16.2%	\$6,689,386	\$349.30	\$254,669	80	\$3,183.37

Table 1 Georgia Demographics, Lottery Sales, and Pre-K Expenditures (by County), *Continued*

	Georgia County	Quintile Rank	Median Household Income 2010	Population Under 5 Years 2010	Population 18 and Over 2010	High School Diploma or Less	College Degree or Higher	Total Lottery Sales 2011	Per Capita Lottery Sales 2011	Total Pre-K Revenue 2011	Total Pre-K Slots 2011	Average \$ Per Slot 2011
56	FAYETTE	1st	\$79,276	4,902	78,468	27.8%	41.5%	\$30,147,219	\$384.20	\$2,429,109	620	\$3,917.92
57	FLOYD	2nd	\$38,289	6,550	72,872	56.8%	17.9%	\$40,203,128	\$551.70	\$3,892,600	960	\$4,054.79
58	FORSYTH	1st	\$81,629	13,514	122,106	29.9%	43.6%	\$35,687,834	\$292.27	\$5,617,651	1,460	\$3,847.71
59	FRANKLIN	3rd	\$36,109	1,281	17,128	65.4%	13.6%	\$11,547,031	\$674.16	\$420,045	120	\$3,500.38
60	FULTON	1st	\$53,580	62,600	700,895	30.2%	47.6%	\$327,042,372	\$466.61	\$25,047,399	6,920	\$3,619.57
61	GILMER	2nd	\$39,710	1,669	22,063	60.8%	13.4%	\$7,440,549	\$337.24	\$813,594	180	\$4,519.96
62	GLASCOCK	3rd	\$36,433	200	2,269	70.8%	10.5%	\$856,829	\$377.62	\$163,009	40	\$4,075.21
63	GLYNN	2nd	\$42,993	5,335	60,395	44.6%	26.4%	\$30,340,269	\$502.36	\$2,430,131	580	\$4,189.88
64	GORDON	2nd	\$40,656	4,084	40,311	64.7%	12.7%	\$19,432,641	\$482.07	\$2,910,935	620	\$4,695.06
65	GRADY	4th	\$31,297	1,901	18,584	67.3%	10.1%	\$12,126,366	\$652.52	\$1,014,631	240	\$4,227.63
66	GREENE	3rd	\$36,001	896	12,697	63.0%	18.9%	\$9,976,350	\$785.72	\$659,768	160	\$4,123.55
67	GWINNETT	1st	\$57,848	62,010	570,614	36.1%	34.9%	\$193,177,987	\$338.54	\$29,752,631	7,840	\$3,794.98
68	HABERSHAM	2nd	\$40,316	2,884	32,737	57.7%	18.7%	\$12,699,306	\$387.92	\$1,240,784	320	\$3,877.45
69	HALL	1st	\$47,238	14,195	129,518	54.0%	21.0%	\$62,238,485	\$480.54	\$6,083,162	1,620	\$3,755.04
70	HANCOCK	5th	\$23,887	434	7,710	75.0%	10.3%	\$4,435,716	\$575.32	\$341,398	80	\$4,267.48
71	HARALSON	2nd	\$39,046	1,842	21,547	67.7%	11.0%	\$22,997,691	\$1,067.33	\$1,252,927	320	\$3,915.40
72	HARRIS	1st	\$62,264	1,761	24,406	42.1%	27.4%	\$9,609,818	\$393.75	\$1,072,573	240	\$4,469.06
73	HART	4th	\$33,753	1,538	19,602	61.7%	15.2%	\$7,183,952	\$366.49	\$563,836	140	\$4,027.40
74	HEARD	2nd	\$39,614	746	8,786	68.3%	7.3%	\$3,562,543	\$405.48	\$542,952	120	\$4,524.60
75	HENRY	1st	\$59,371	13,867	144,265	43.3%	24.4%	\$68,431,181	\$474.34	\$6,040,188	1,620	\$3,728.51
76	HOUSTON	1st	\$54,977	10,213	102,406	41.3%	24.4%	\$47,835,975	\$467.12	\$5,839,778	1,460	\$3,999.85
77	IRWIN	4th	\$32,859	601	7,223	66.9%	9.2%	\$2,577,896	\$356.90	\$449,740	100	\$4,497.40
78	JACKSON	1st	\$50,409	4,294	44,440	57.7%	17.7%	\$18,325,065	\$412.36	\$2,167,464	520	\$4,168.20
79	JASPER	2nd	\$43,443	949	10,425	62.5%	13.3%	\$3,342,561	\$320.63	\$257,972	60	\$4,299.54
80	JEFF DAVIS	4th	\$32,380	1,190	10,902	69.0%	11.5%	\$6,037,794	\$553.82	\$923,188	200	\$4,615.94
81	JEFFERSON	5th	\$29,683	1,168	12,659	71.4%	8.7%	\$11,496,291	\$908.15	\$720,112	180	\$4,000.62
82	JENKINS	5th	\$27,682	617	6,104	68.2%	12.8%	\$3,125,112	\$511.98	\$452,045	100	\$4,520.45
83	JOHNSON	5th	\$28,332	549	7,890	70.8%	8.9%	\$2,476,221	\$313.84	\$387,823	80	\$4,847.79
84	JONES	1st	\$52,215	1,892	21,196	53.0%	17.2%	\$6,478,682	\$305.66	\$1,192,000	280	\$4,257.14

Table 1 Georgia Demographics, Lottery Sales, and Pre-K Expenditures (by County), *Continued*

	Georgia County	Quintile Rank	Median Household Income 2010	Population Under 5 Years 2010	Population 18 and Over 2010	High School Diploma or Less	College Degree or Higher	Total Lottery Sales 2011	Per Capita Lottery Sales 2011	Total Pre-K Revenue 2011	Total Pre-K Slots 2011	Average \$ Per Slot 2011
85	LAMAR	2nd	\$40,001	1,081	14,448	65.8%	9.7%	\$6,566,301	\$454.48	\$411,054	100	\$4,110.54
86	LANIER	4th	\$33,430	897	7,310	61.0%	9.4%	\$2,811,366	\$384.59	\$582,674	120	\$4,855.62
87	LAURENS	3rd	\$36,568	3,439	35,959	62.4%	15.9%	\$24,142,068	\$671.38	\$2,482,369	540	\$4,596.98
88	LEE	1st	\$61,489	1,868	20,363	48.2%	19.2%	\$13,639,969	\$669.84	\$1,391,371	320	\$4,348.03
89	LIBERTY	2nd	\$39,697	6,536	44,262	45.9%	16.3%	\$29,124,912	\$658.01	\$2,845,439	800	\$3,556.80
90	LINCOLN	3rd	\$35,201	424	6,345	64.9%	9.7%	\$3,167,611	\$499.23	\$307,948	60	\$5,132.46
91	LONG	2nd	\$38,243	1,360	10,045	61.3%	9.1%	\$2,484,645	\$247.35	\$515,270	120	\$4,293.92
92	LOWNDES	3rd	\$36,486	8,327	82,263	48.7%	22.3%	\$45,742,314	\$556.05	\$3,536,644	860	\$4,112.38
93	LUMPKIN	2nd	\$44,309	1,768	23,725	54.0%	19.5%	\$7,274,654	\$306.62	\$412,389	120	\$3,436.58
94	MACON	5th	\$27,324	855	11,487	69.1%	10.7%	\$7,816,523	\$680.47	\$352,305	80	\$4,403.81
95	MADISON	2nd	\$41,267	1,715	21,246	66.9%	12.9%	\$7,285,202	\$342.90	\$658,598	180	\$3,658.88
96	MARION	4th	\$33,534	568	6,646	70.3%	6.8%	\$3,157,846	\$475.15	\$250,104	60	\$4,168.40
97	MCDUFFIE	3rd	\$36,559	1,561	16,177	65.6%	11.5%	\$14,428,011	\$891.88	\$953,651	240	\$3,973.55
98	MCINTOSH	3rd	\$35,681	788	11,255	62.5%	15.0%	\$5,764,470	\$512.17	\$364,363	80	\$4,554.54
99	MERIWETHER	3rd	\$35,287	1,429	16,782	70.7%	9.7%	\$12,271,204	\$731.21	\$856,988	220	\$3,895.40
100	MILLER	4th	\$32,015	423	4,689	65.6%	9.4%	\$2,919,766	\$622.68	\$184,618	60	\$3,076.97
101	MITCHELL	5th	\$31,094	1,739	17,662	69.9%	9.6%	\$12,835,199	\$726.71	\$991,266	240	\$4,130.27
102	MONROE	1st	\$49,839	1,197	20,471	56.5%	19.0%	\$10,581,121	\$516.88	\$907,188	200	\$4,535.94
103	MONTGOMERY	3rd	\$35,133	557	7,039	60.5%	15.5%	\$2,919,658	\$414.78	\$265,692	60	\$4,428.20
104	MORGAN	2nd	\$45,804	1,018	13,429	54.9%	23.8%	\$10,457,715	\$778.74	\$614,114	140	\$4,386.53
105	MURRAY	2nd	\$39,911	2,814	28,890	73.4%	6.7%	\$11,181,515	\$387.04	\$1,826,976	440	\$4,152.22
106	MUSCOGEE	3rd	\$36,359	14,051	141,287	45.6%	21.6%	\$135,803,785	\$961.19	\$7,671,762	1,940	\$3,954.52
107	NEWTON	1st	\$48,989	7,569	71,085	50.3%	19.4%	\$36,551,594	\$514.20	\$3,307,321	820	\$4,033.32
108	OCONEE	1st	\$76,298	1,936	23,505	30.0%	44.9%	\$6,038,943	\$256.92	\$1,219,241	340	\$3,586.00
109	OGLETHORPE	2nd	\$40,936	879	11,344	58.9%	11.7%	\$3,067,645	\$270.42	\$398,903	120	\$3,324.19
110	PAULDING	1st	\$61,496	11,244	99,230	50.6%	20.8%	\$29,603,171	\$298.33	\$4,615,668	1,280	\$3,605.99
111	PEACH	2nd	\$38,024	1,828	21,375	55.8%	18.0%	\$13,973,051	\$653.71	\$510,337	140	\$3,645.27
112	PICKENS	1st	\$48,532	1,736	22,794	53.3%	22.0%	\$8,626,021	\$378.43	\$475,043	140	\$3,393.16
113	PIERCE	3rd	\$37,262	1,313	13,862	63.1%	8.8%	\$6,024,490	\$434.60	\$913,153	200	\$4,565.76

Table 1 Georgia Demographics, Lottery Sales, and Pre-K Expenditures (by County), *Continued*

	Georgia County	Quintile Rank	Median Household Income 2010	Population Under 5 Years 2010	Population 18 and Over 2010	High School Diploma or Less	College Degree or Higher	Total Lottery Sales 2011	Per Capita Lottery Sales 2011	Total Pre-K Revenue 2011	Total Pre-K Slots 2011	Average \$ Per Slot 2011
114	PIKE	1st	\$52,411	1,019	13,031	56.5%	15.7%	\$4,353,570	\$334.09	\$553,814	140	\$3,955.82
115	POLK	3rd	\$36,468	3,318	30,429	66.7%	11.4%	\$17,463,647	\$573.91	\$1,556,977	400	\$3,892.44
116	PULASKI	3rd	\$36,665	709	9,432	68.9%	5.6%	\$5,734,678	\$608.00	\$402,389	100	\$4,023.89
117	PUTNAM	2nd	\$40,037	1,337	16,617	55.1%	18.8%	\$9,755,240	\$587.06	\$821,609	180	\$4,564.50
118	QUITMAN	5th	\$28,102	133	1,999	71.4%	7.4%	\$8,846,859	\$4,425.64	\$135,701	40	\$3,392.53
119	RABUN	2nd	\$37,990	836	12,847	50.0%	24.7%	\$4,189,787	\$326.13	\$346,849	100	\$3,468.49
120	RANDOLPH	5th	\$26,863	502	5,991	63.8%	13.1%	\$5,361,249	\$894.88	\$161,829	40	\$4,045.74
121	RICHMOND	3rd	\$37,866	14,841	151,244	48.9%	20.3%	\$123,396,705	\$815.88	\$8,384,524	2,080	\$4,031.02
122	ROCKDALE	1st	\$53,899	5,795	62,301	45.0%	23.6%	\$33,461,866	\$537.10	\$3,457,199	880	\$3,928.63
123	SCHLEY	3rd	\$37,761	316	3,507	64.6%	8.7%	\$1,751,244	\$499.36	\$422,795	80	\$5,284.94
124	SCREVEN	5th	\$30,925	992	10,903	68.3%	11.4%	\$6,765,037	\$620.47	\$596,583	140	\$4,261.31
125	SEMINOLE	5th	\$30,604	498	6,725	60.7%	10.3%	\$5,912,481	\$879.18	\$457,591	100	\$4,575.91
126	SPALDING	2nd	\$38,451	4,613	47,862	62.0%	13.6%	\$29,741,179	\$621.39	\$2,647,582	660	\$4,011.49
127	STEPHENS	3rd	\$34,445	1,623	20,223	63.8%	13.3%	\$9,590,213	\$474.22	\$677,029	160	\$4,231.43
128	STEWART	5th	\$26,659	273	5,109	67.7%	11.0%	\$3,338,511	\$653.46	\$186,299	40	\$4,657.47
129	SUMTER	4th	\$31,871	2,363	24,518	58.1%	18.9%	\$19,181,313	\$782.34	\$1,343,741	300	\$4,479.14
130	TALBOT	5th	\$29,933	364	5,401	68.5%	10.9%	\$2,194,675	\$406.35	\$113,392	40	\$2,834.80
131	TALIAFERRO	5th	\$26,863	96	1,394	79.1%	6.8%	\$1,334,706	\$957.46	\$85,078	20	\$4,253.90
132	TATTNALL	3rd	\$35,039	1,506	20,114	71.4%	11.9%	\$8,434,967	\$419.36	\$993,816	220	\$4,517.34
133	TAYLOR	5th	\$30,748	543	6,728	72.1%	7.4%	\$3,367,004	\$500.45	\$426,263	80	\$5,328.28
134	TELFAIR	5th	\$28,414	941	13,184	76.1%	8.1%	\$6,799,326	\$515.73	\$436,462	100	\$4,364.62
135	TERRELL	5th	\$31,143	671	7,011	66.9%	9.9%	\$7,069,290	\$1,008.31	\$436,551	100	\$4,365.51
136	THOMAS	3rd	\$35,539	3,041	33,583	56.2%	19.6%	\$25,711,081	\$765.60	\$2,199,607	520	\$4,230.01
137	TIFT	3rd	\$34,702	2,969	29,758	55.0%	16.3%	\$22,979,979	\$772.23	\$1,852,133	460	\$4,026.38
138	TOOMBS	4th	\$32,002	2,232	19,608	60.2%	14.3%	\$13,289,565	\$677.76	\$1,446,024	320	\$4,518.82
139	TOWNS	2nd	\$38,207	386	8,830	50.9%	20.8%	\$4,085,977	\$462.74	\$149,289	40	\$3,732.23
140	TREUTLEN	5th	\$30,809	496	5,172	70.2%	9.9%	\$2,537,388	\$490.60	\$328,204	80	\$4,102.55
141	TROUP	2nd	\$39,422	4,760	49,242	55.5%	19.4%	\$57,907,364	\$1,175.98	\$2,779,969	700	\$3,971.38
142	TURNER	5th	\$26,845	598	6,727	65.8%	13.2%	\$5,436,740	\$808.20	\$484,254	120	\$4,035.45

Table 1 Georgia Demographics, Lottery Sales, and Pre-K Expenditures (by County), *Continued*

	Georgia County	Quintile Rank	Median Household Income 2010	Population Under 5 Years 2010	Population 18 and Over 2010	High School Diploma or Less	College Degree or Higher	Total Lottery Sales 2011	Per Capita Lottery Sales 2011	Total Pre-K Revenue 2011	Total Pre-K Slots 2011	Average \$ Per Slot 2011
143	TWIGGS	3rd	\$35,232	523	7,167	78.1%	6.7%	\$3,788,731	\$528.64	\$115,502	40	\$2,887.55
144	UNION	3rd	\$37,540	918	17,563	46.0%	21.6%	\$6,674,567	\$380.04	\$203,455	60	\$3,390.91
145	UPSON	4th	\$33,461	1,683	20,736	63.9%	11.3%	\$10,711,127	\$516.55	\$924,040	240	\$3,850.17
146	WALKER	3rd	\$36,854	4,194	52,500	59.3%	12.8%	\$29,420,835	\$560.40	\$2,073,780	500	\$4,147.56
147	WALTON	1st	\$51,913	5,780	61,180	55.5%	17.3%	\$30,307,436	\$495.38	\$3,014,630	760	\$3,966.62
148	WARE	4th	\$33,176	2,506	27,755	61.3%	12.2%	\$15,854,704	\$571.24	\$1,677,689	360	\$4,660.25
149	WARREN	5th	\$29,764	403	4,461	77.4%	4.7%	\$3,076,738	\$689.70	\$197,060	60	\$3,284.34
150	WASHINGTON	4th	\$33,199	1,398	16,141	67.7%	10.7%	\$11,632,183	\$720.66	\$673,366	200	\$3,366.83
151	WAYNE	3rd	\$36,562	2,167	22,638	62.3%	10.9%	\$10,086,191	\$445.54	\$1,604,221	360	\$4,456.17
152	WEBSTER	4th	\$31,216	165	2,089	69.0%	7.9%	\$780,239	\$373.50	\$201,224	40	\$5,030.59
153	WHEELER	5th	\$29,834	408	6,022	76.4%	8.6%	\$1,677,262	\$278.52	\$257,792	60	\$4,296.53
154	WHITE	2nd	\$40,120	1,601	20,944	53.1%	19.6%	\$7,627,123	\$364.17	\$415,148	120	\$3,459.57
155	WHITFIELD	2nd	\$40,117	8,105	73,316	62.1%	15.1%	\$38,922,261	\$530.88	\$3,879,018	1,000	\$3,879.02
156	WILCOX	4th	\$31,442	481	7,468	68.6%	8.8%	\$3,078,416	\$412.21	\$358,262	80	\$4,478.28
157	WILKES	5th	\$30,451	636	8,237	66.5%	15.5%	\$6,584,231	\$799.35	\$369,217	80	\$4,615.21
158	WILKINSON	3rd	\$35,530	660	7,239	68.6%	12.1%	\$4,394,772	\$607.10	\$491,858	120	\$4,098.82
159	WORTH	3rd	\$37,436	1,431	16,336	65.4%	9.4%	\$6,734,321	\$412.24	\$700,539	160	\$4,378.37
TOTAL			686,776	7,196,008			3,598,701,888		332,697,905	84,300		
STATE AVERAGE			\$46,252		46.1%	27.2%		\$500.10			\$46.23	

Endnotes

¹ *The Productivity Argument for Investing in Young Children*, by James J. Heckman (University of Chicago) and Dimitriy V. Masterov (University of Michigan). Working Paper 13016, National Bureau of Economic Research. Cambridge, MA. April 2007.

² *Early Childhood Education for All: A Wise Investment*, by Leslie J. Calman and Linda Tarr-Whelan; Legal Momentum. New York, NY. April 2005.

³ *Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return*, by Rob Grunewald and Arthur J. Rolnick. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. March 2003.

⁴ See endnote 1.

⁵ See endnote 2.

⁶ Pre-K waitlist figure is taken from Governor's FY 2013 Budget Report.