

SREB

Southern
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Education
Board

Challenge
to Lead

Goals for Education

*Ready to Start: Ensuring High-Quality
Prekindergarten in SREB States*

January 29, 2008

**House Appropriations Committee
Commonwealth of Virginia**

Joan M. Lord

SREB's *Challenge to Lead* Goals

Challenge
to Lead

- **Transitions**
 - **Pre-K to elementary school**
 - Middle grades to high school
 - High school to college and careers

- **Closing the achievement gaps**
 - **Race/ethnicity and gender**
 - **Geography**
 - **Income**

- **Education systems**
 - **Aligned curricula/assessments**
 - Data from schools and colleges linked
 - Accountability to the public

Defining School Readiness

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Dimensions of Readiness

- **Physical well-being and motor development**
- **Social/emotional development**
- **Approaches to learning**
- **Language development**
- **Cognition and general knowledge**

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-National Education Goals Panel and
National Governors Association
Task Force on School Readiness

Value of Prekindergarten

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- **Classic Studies**
 - **High/Score Perry Preschool Project: Michigan**
 - **Abecedarian Project: North Carolina**
 - **Chicago Child-Parent Centers**

- **Recent Studies in SREB states**
 - **Georgetown University: Oklahoma**
 - **NIEER: Oklahoma, South Carolina and West Virginia**
 - **Georgia State University: Georgia**
 - **NIEER: Arkansas**

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Ready to Start: Ensuring High-Quality Pre-K in SREB states

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- **Access**

Is your state improving prekindergarten access for all children at risk of not being ready for first grade?

- **Standards of high quality**

Do your state's prekindergarten programs meet recognized standards of high quality?

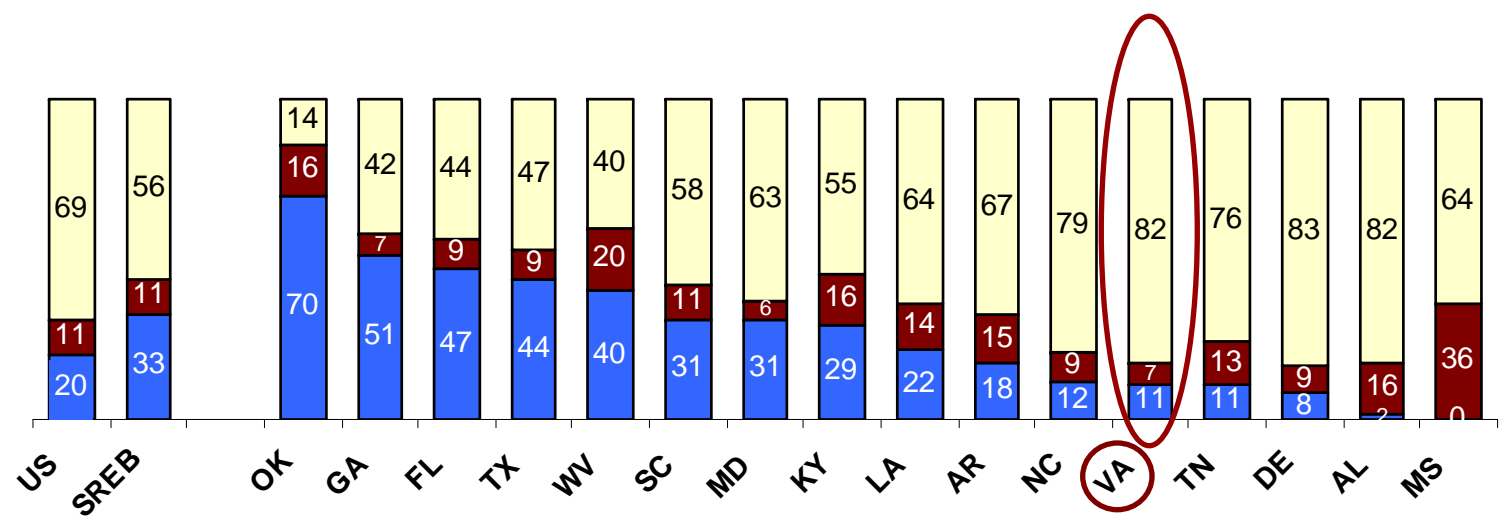
- **State investment**

Is your state investing enough in prekindergarten so that its programs can meet high quality standards and provide greater access for all children?

ACCESS

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4-Year-Olds in Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs, 2006



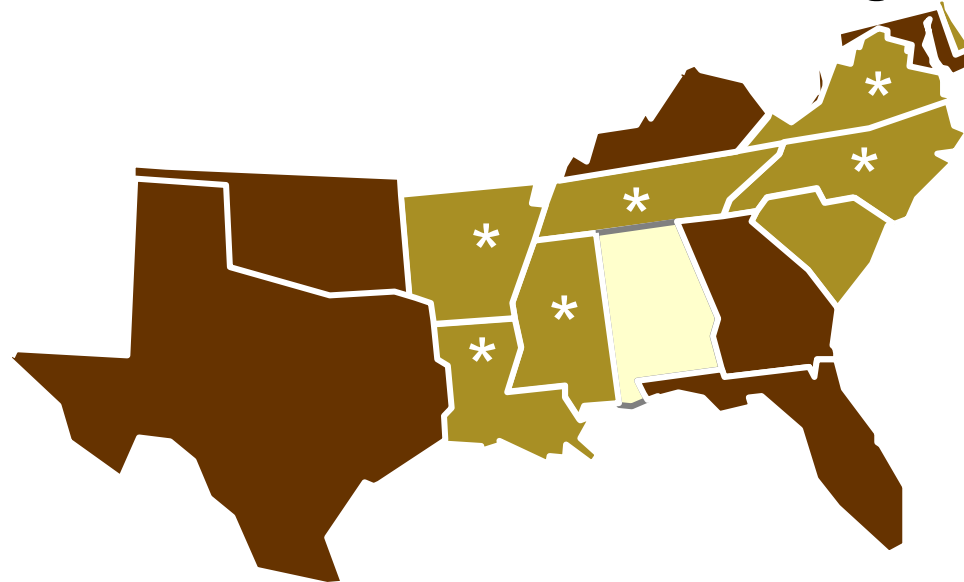
Percent not served by publicly funded programs
 Percent in Head Start
 Percent in state-funded prekindergarten

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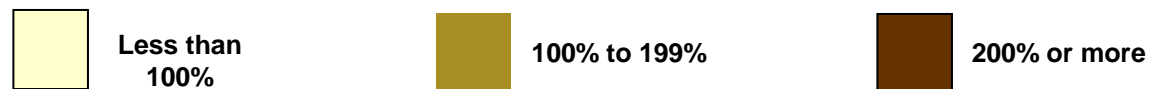
ACCESS

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Percentage of Children in Poverty for Which SREB States Have Seats Available in Prekindergarten, 2007



All But One SREB State Offers Prekindergarten Seats Equal to Number of Children from Families in Poverty



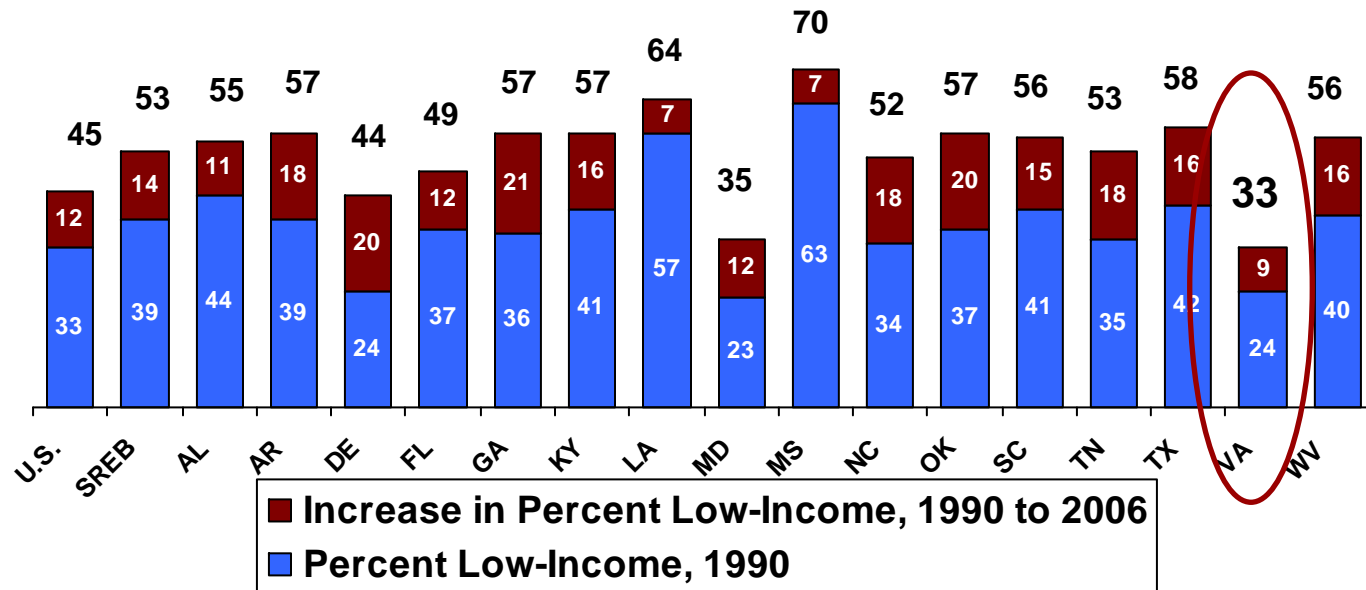
*Reached 100 percent or more access since 2005

ACCESS

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Percentage of School-Age Children Approved for Free or Reduced Lunches, 1990 to 2006



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Standards of High Quality

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- **NIEER “10 Standards ”**

- **Virginia: state-funded Pre-K meets 7 standards**
All except
 - **Lead teacher credentials**
 - **Assistant teacher credentials**
 - **Learning standards**

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Standards of High Quality

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NIEER “10 Standards ”

- **SREB states lead the nation**
 - **Alabama and North Carolina meet 10**
 - **Arkansas, Oklahoma and Tennessee meet nine**
 - **Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana and South Carolina meet eight**

Standards of High Quality

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State-level Assessment Initiatives

How do you know if your Pre-K programs are effective and if your children are ready for school?

- **Maryland Model of School Readiness**
- **Texas Ready**

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State Investment

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- **Increases in funding in all SREB states**
- **Variability in sources of state funding**
- **Not all had increases in per child spending**
- **Creative use of *all* federal funds for early care and learning**

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Spotlight on the Leaders

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- **Oklahoma**
 - 70 percent of 4's in state-funded programs
 - Nine NIEER standards
 - 97 percent of national average in per child spending

- **Georgia**
 - 51 percent of 4's in state-funded programs
 - Eight NIEER standards
 - 114 percent of national average in per child spending

- **North Carolina**
 - 21 percent of 4's in state-funded programs
 - Ten NIEER standards
 - 112 percent of national average in per child spending

Spotlight on the Leaders

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- **Oklahoma**
 - Partner with private providers through public schools
 - Use state standards
 - Coordinate state Pre-K with *Head Start*

- **Georgia**
 - Created state agency for all birth-to-five programs
 - Contract with private providers

- **North Carolina**
 - Created *Smart Start* to serve children birth to five
 - Linked state Pre-K – *More at Four* – to Smart Start
 - State and local partnership

Challenges

- **Access for 4-year olds from low income families**

Challenges

Challenge
to Lead

- Access for 4-year olds from low income families
- **Highly trained prekindergarten teachers**
- **Teachers trained to identify disabilities**

Challenges

Challenge
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- Access for 4-year olds from low income families
- Highly trained prekindergarten teachers
- Teachers trained to identify disabilities
- **Statewide coordination of *all* early learning programs and services**

Challenges

Challenge
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- Access for 4-year olds from low income families
- Highly trained prekindergarten teachers
- Teachers trained to identify disabilities
- Statewide coordination of *all* early learning programs and services
- **Funding streams that are stable and adequate**

Challenges

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to Lead

- Access for 4-year olds from low income families
- Highly trained prekindergarten teachers
- Teachers trained to identify disabilities
- Statewide coordination of *all* early learning programs and services
- Funding streams that are stable and adequate
- **Aligned systems of assessments**

Challenges

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to Lead

- Access for 4-year olds from low income families
- Highly trained prekindergarten teachers
- Teachers trained to identify disabilities
- Statewide coordination of *all* early learning programs and services
- Funding streams that are stable and adequate
- Aligned systems of assessments
- **Availability of full-day and yearlong programs**

Challenges

Challenge
to Lead

- Access for 4-year olds from low income families
- Highly trained prekindergarten teachers
- Teachers trained to identify disabilities
- Statewide coordination of *all* early learning programs and services
- Funding streams that are stable and adequate
- Aligned systems of assessments
- Availability of full-day and yearlong programs
- **Access for 3-year olds from impoverished families, as funding becomes available.**

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For more information contact

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