

SREB

Southern  
Regional  
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**

---

---

**SREB**

- **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

---

---

SREB

### Dimensions of Readiness

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

Southern  
Regional  
Education  
Board

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

## Value of Prekindergarten

---

---

SREB

- **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**

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

---

---

SREB

- **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?*

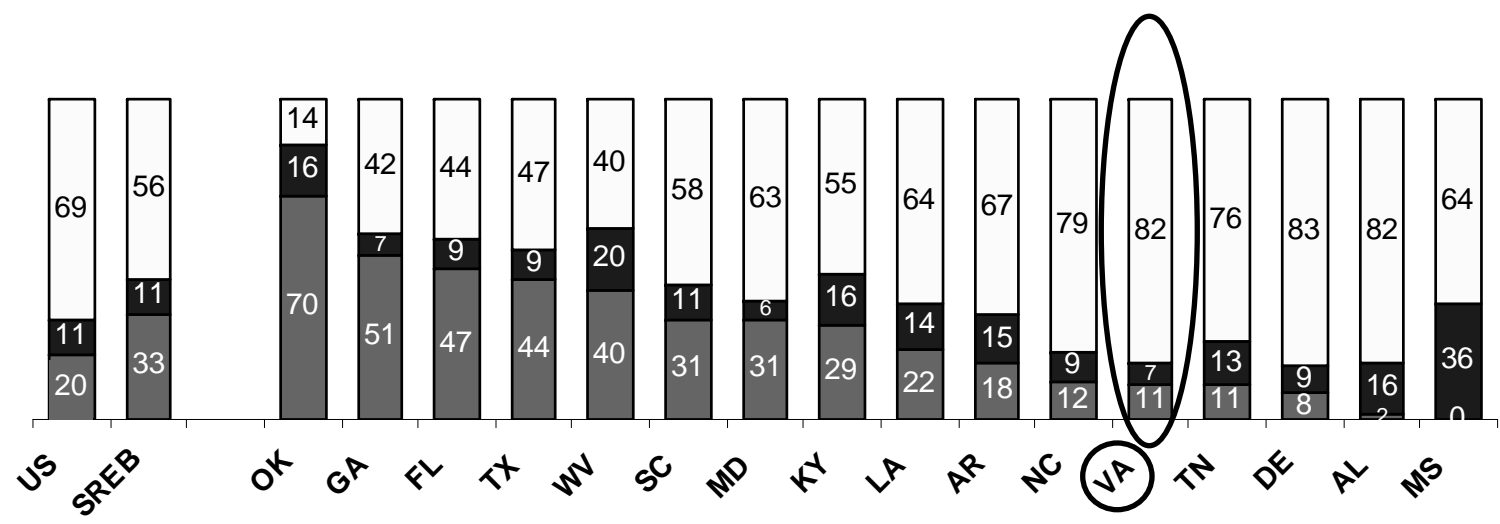
- **State investment**

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

# ACCESS

SREB

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



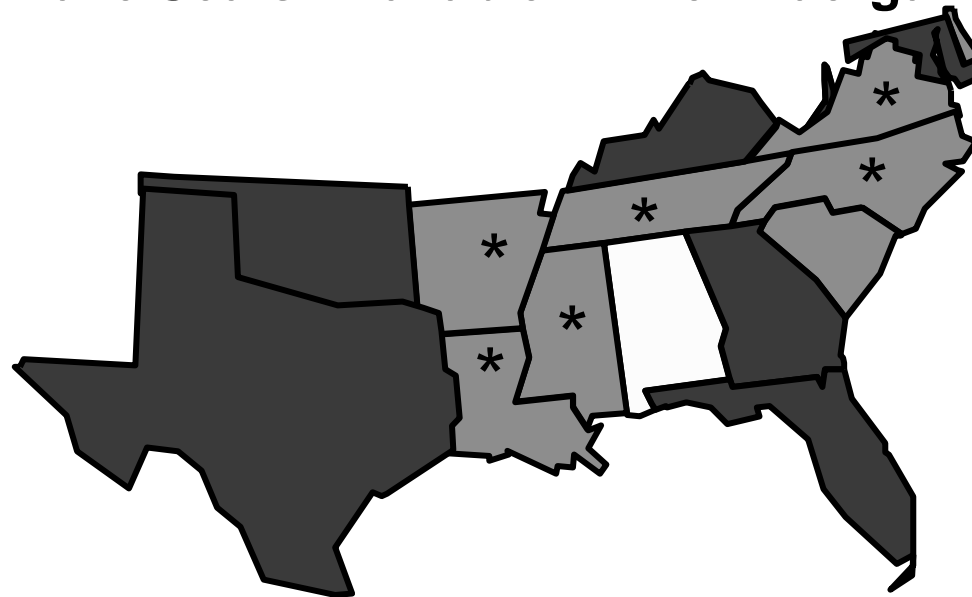
Percent not served by publicly funded programs  
 Percent in Head Start  
 Percent in state-funded prekindergarten

Southern  
Regional  
Education  
Board

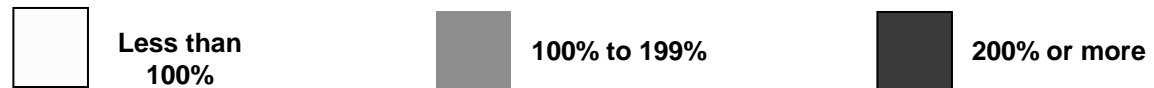
# ACCESS

SREB

## 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*

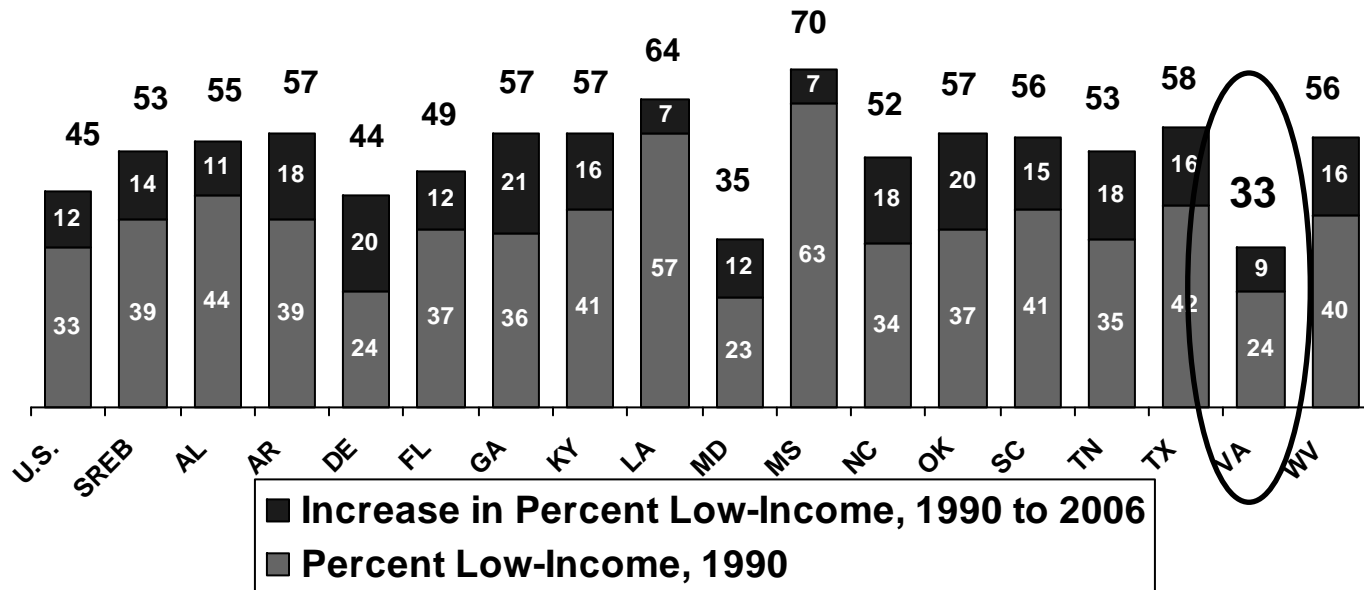


\*Reached 100 percent or more access since 2005

# ACCESS

SREB

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



Southern  
Regional  
Education  
Board



## **Standards of High Quality**

---

---

SREB

- **NIEER “10 Standards ”**
  
- **Virginia: state-funded Pre-K meets 7 standards**  
**All except**
  - **Lead teacher credentials**
  - **Assistant teacher credentials**
  - **Learning standards**

## **Standards of High Quality**

---

---

**SREB**

### **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**

---

---

**SREB**

## **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**

## **State Investment**

---

---

SREB

- **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**

## Spotlight on the Leaders

---

---

SREB

- **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

---

---

SREB

- **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**

---

---

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

**SREB**

Southern  
Regional  
Education  
Board



## **Challenges**

---

---

- **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**

---

---

**SREB**

- **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**

---

---

**SREB**

- **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**

Southern  
Regional  
Education  
Board

## **Challenges**

---

---

**SREB**

- **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**

Southern  
Regional  
Education  
Board

## **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.**

SREB

Southern  
Regional  
Education  
Board

Challenge  
to Lead

## Goals for Education

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

For more information contact

Joan Lord

Vice President, Education Policies

[joan.lord@sreb.org](mailto:joan.lord@sreb.org)

404-879-5534