



2023 RECOMMENDATIONS

We support Governor Ivey’s FY 2024 proposal for a combined \$42 million increase in state investments in Alabama’s First Class Pre-K program and the Alabama Quality STARS Rating and Improvement System for Child Care.

Alabama Quality STARS directly supports pre-k expansion by helping early care and education programs make the improvements needed to become First Class Pre-K providers.

THE PROPOSED INVESTMENTS WOULD:



help add
100
First Class Pre-K
classrooms



increase First Class Pre-K
access from 45% to
47%
of the state’s
four-year-olds



keep our state on track
to fully fund Alabama’s
First Class Pre-K program
to reach 70 percent of
four-year-olds by 2026



For **16 years** in a row,
Alabama’s First Class Pre-K has been
ranked #1 in the country for quality.

First Class Pre-K is working.

Researchers from UAB and the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama have followed the progress of students through eighth grade and found that – regardless of zip code, demographics or school – First Class Pre-K graduates are



to be proficient in reading and
math on state assessments

to be chronically absent from school
to be held back a grade
to need special education services
to have a serious disciplinary issue

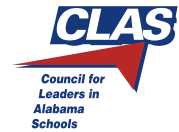
We also support the Governor’s request that the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education develop a plan to reach full access to the voluntary First Class Pre-K program (estimated at 70 percent of four-year-olds) in Alabama’s 19 highest poverty counties by the fall of 2024.

Furthermore, we recommend that the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education create a plan and timeline for reaching 70 percent of Alabama’s four-year-olds in First Class Pre-K by 2026, including plans for addressing obstacles to reaching this goal (such as transportation, the need for quality providers and teachers, and facilities). The Alabama School Readiness Alliance will continue to partner with the Department to overcome barriers to pre-k expansion.



Alabama School Readiness Alliance PRE-K TASK FORCE

Some of the companies and organizations represented on the Alabama School Readiness Alliance's statewide Pre-K Task Force:



For a full list of members, go to www.alabamaschoolreadiness.org/asra-pre-k-task-force-members/

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