



Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor

Ami Brooks, Secretary

The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education Awarded AmeriCorps Planning Grant to Support Future Expansion of Alabama First Class Pre-K

July 10, 2026

The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECE) has been awarded a \$100,000 AmeriCorps Alabama Formula Planning Grant to develop a strategic framework that will support the future expansion of Alabama's nationally recognized First Class Pre-K program.

Through this one-year planning grant, ADECE will assess workforce needs, provider readiness, and community capacity to identify sustainable opportunities for expanding access to high-quality pre-K, particularly in rural and underserved communities. The project will include data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration with regional and higher education partners to better understand the conditions needed for successful expansion.

The planning process will also explore the development of a future AmeriCorps program that could strengthen the early childhood workforce, support providers, improve family access to services, and build capacity in communities across Alabama.

"Alabama's First Class Pre-K program is recognized nationally because of our commitment to quality," said Secretary Ami Brooks. "This planning grant gives us the opportunity to thoughtfully evaluate how we can expand access while maintaining the high standards that have made our program a national model. By working with partners across the state, we can better prepare our workforce, strengthen providers, and ensure more Alabama families have access to high-quality early learning opportunities."

Alabama's First Class Pre-K program currently serves more than 23,000 four-year-olds across all 67 counties and has consistently met all 10 quality benchmarks established by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). The AmeriCorps planning grant will help position ADECE to develop a sustainable strategy for future growth while continuing to deliver high-quality early childhood education statewide.