



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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Governor

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**Governor's FY2013 Budget
Georgia's Pre-K Program
Frequently Asked Questions**
(Updated May 15, 2012)

- Q- Can you address the decision to extend the Pre-K school year by 10 days?**
A - Yes. DECAL fully supports the Governor's decision to provide funding for an additional 10 days of instruction for 84,000 Pre-K slots within the existing formula. This number of slots will cover the current enrollment of approximately 83,000 students. The additional days increase the factor that funds lead teacher salaries to 94.44% of the 2011 base rates. This change begins restoring pay for lead and assistant teachers, directly impacting the quality in the classroom.
- Q- Do the Pre-K rates include operating expenses for the ten additional days?**
A - Yes. The base rate includes the operating expenses for the additional days.
- Q- Will salaries for teacher assistants increase too?**
A - Yes. Assistant teachers will work an additional 10 instructional days which will increase their total days from 169 days to 179 days resulting in additional pay.
- Q- Will there be the same salary guideline for assistant teachers as in the previous year?**
A - Yes.. Programs will be required to pay 100% of the assistant teacher salary as outlined in the 2011-2012 Pre-K Operating Guidelines.
- Q- Will there be a change in the Pre-K class size?**
A - No. The current budget does not affect the current class size of 22 students.

Q- Will there be a Pre-K application for new and expansion classrooms for next school year?

A -

At this time, new and/ or expansion classrooms will not funded. .

Q- Do I need to submit an application for continuation classes? How will I receive my Pre-K grant agreement for next school year?

Programs do not need to submit an application for funding. Continuation Pre-K Grant agreements will be generated automatically through PANDA. Project Directors will receive an email with the grant agreement attached. The contract signatory will need to send two copies and submit by mail. A signed grant agreement will be returned by mail.

Q- Did I understand correctly that 86,000 Pre-K slots were awarded this year and the budget funds 84,000 slots for next year? If so, does that mean 2,000 slots will be lost next year?

A - Yes, that is correct. However, 84,000 slots will maintain this year's enrollment of approximately 83,000.

Q- Are all 10 additional days for instruction?

A - Yes, the additional 10 days must be for classroom instruction. The minimum number of instructional days will be 170 days. Nine additional days for teacher planning and professional development will also be funded. A minimum of three planning/professional development days is required. A maximum of six planning/professional development days may be converted to instructional days.

Q- Is the budget final?

A - Yes. We are responding to these questions based on the final FY2013 budget.

Q- What is the projected date the FY2013 Operating Guidelines will be available to providers?

A - The FY2013 Guidelines will be posted on the agency website by July 1, 2012.

Q- Do we use the FY2012 forms for parents to complete for FY2013 enrollments?

A - No. The new forms are posted at <http://dec.al.ga.gov/Prek/ChildRegistrationForms.aspx>

Q- Will the learning standards change for next year, or will training take place next year?

A - We will unveil a transition plan and training on the revised learning standards beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Professional development on the revised standards is proposed for the 2013-2014 school year with full implementation the following school year.

Q- Will the training schedule be available prior to development of a program's calendar?

A - We are currently developing the training schedule for the upcoming school year. Training dates for New Assistant Teachers and New Lead Teachers are expected early June. Other dates most likely will not be announced until after July 1, 2012.

Q- Will we be allowed to carry over funds from FY12 to FY13?

A - Last year programs were allowed to carry over any funding to the current school year without prior approval. To carry over FY12 funds programs must submit a written request to the Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K for permission to carry over funds. The request must contain the amount of carryover money and how funds would be spent in FY13. Requests for carryover will be considered for teaching staff salaries and benefits, family support services, and technology. If you have a one-time expenditure request outside of these three areas, it will be evaluated and considered on a case by case basis. Only funds from FY12 may be carried over to FY13. Funds from FY11 must be expended before the end of FY12. All carryover funds must be expended the following fiscal year and cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year. The deadline for carryover requests is May 31, 2012.