

Georgia’s Pre-K Program

Teacher of the Year 2022 - 2023

Application Packet





The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is seeking applications for 2022 – 2023 Georgia’s Pre-K Program Teachers of the Year. DECAL will select a winner from a public school system and a winner from a private childcare center. The winners will serve as ambassadors for Georgia’s Pre-K Program.

To be considered for this honor, the teacher who is applying must meet the following qualifications:

* Employed as a full-time Georgia’s Pre-K lead teacher during the 2021 - 2022 school year.
* Taught as a full-time lead teacher in a Georgia’s Pre-K classroom for a minimum of **three years.**
* Meets Georgia’s Pre-K lead teacher credential/certification requirements and is enrolled in the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS).
* Plans to continue as a lead teacher in a Georgia’s Pre-K classroom during the 2022 - 2023 school year.
* Employed by a Georgia’s Pre-K Program provider in good standing with all programs administered by DECAL (Pre-K, Child Care Services, Childcare and Parent Services [CAPS] and Nutrition Services).
* Willing to serve as an ambassador for Georgia’s Pre-K Program. Duties may include but are not limited to public speaking, representing Georgia’s Pre-K at meetings, and modeling effective classroom practices.
* Willing and able to travel as needed – including some overnight stays.
* Willing to participate in a classroom evaluation and interview if chosen as a finalist.

**Timeline:**

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| --- | --- |
| March 7, 2022 | Application posted |
| March 28, 2022 | Application with required documents due to DECAL |
| May 2022 | Finalists announced |
| September 2022 | Georgia’s Pre-K Teacher of the Year winners announced |

**Application Requirements and Information**

* Application must be typed, not handwritten. **Applications that are handwritten will not be reviewed**.
* Application must be completed in its entirety.
* Submitted application must include one full week of a completed lesson plan and a small group template for the same week.
* Scores from the application review process will not be released.

**Application Submission**

* The application, lesson plan and small group templatemust be submitted at the same time via email to [prektoty@decal.ga.gov](mailto:prektoty@decal.ga.gov)
* Application **must be emailed** no later than **5:00p.m. on March 28, 2022**.
* Applications **will not** be accepted after the due date and time.

**For questions about the Teacher of the Year application, contact Meghan McNail at** [**Meghan.mcnail@decal.ga.gov**](mailto:Meghan.mcnail@decal.ga.gov) **or 770-357-4911.**

**2022 - 2023 Georgia’s Pre-K Program Teacher of the Year**

|  |
| --- |
| Name of Applicant:  Date of Application |

|  |
| --- |
| Name of School: |
| School Address: |
| City: Zip Code: County: |
| School Phone: |
| Pre-K Project Director: |

|  |
| --- |
| Home Address: |
| City: Zip Code: County: |
| Cell Phone: Email Address: |

**Professional Preparation**: Complete the information for the appropriate degree(s).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Degree Earned** | **Field of Study** | **Institution** | **Date Degree Received** |
| Undergraduate |  |  |  |
| Masters |  |  |  |
| Specialist |  |  |  |
| Doctorate |  |  |  |

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Additional Certification (i.e., ESOL, Gifted)

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Georgia Teaching Certificate Type, Level and Field

**Professional Experience**: List the schools/early education centers where you have been employed as a Georgia’s Pre-K Program lead teacher, starting with the most recent.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **School Name** | **Start Date** | **End Date** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

FOR PRE-K PROJECT DIRECTOR: I understand that if the teacher from my school is selected as the 2022 - 2023 Georgia’s Pre-K Program Teacher of the Year, there will be occasions throughout the year during which he/she needs to be released from their teaching responsibilities to attend meetings, engage in public speaking, and perform other public appearance duties.

Teacher Signature (Type your full name as signature)

Pre-K Project Director Signature (Type your full name as signature)

1. **Professional Biography (20 points)**:

What factors influenced you to become a teacher?

Describe your greatest contributions to, or accomplishments in the field of education.

1. **School or Community Involvement (20 points):**

Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in, either in your school or community. What was your role, and how did this contribute to the overall school/community culture?

1. **Classroom Instruction (20 points):**

Describe how you plan for the individual needs of students in your classroom. Include how you assess student’s needs, how you individualize instruction based on your assessment and the strategies used to meet the needs of each student.

1. **Classroom Culture (20 points):**

Describe how the lead teacher and assistant teacher work together in your classroom. What principles or strategies are used in your classroom to motivate children to learn? What behavior management techniques do you use in your classroom?

1. **Teaching during a pandemic (20 points):**

What has been the most challenging part about teaching during a pandemic? Describe strategies you implemented in your teaching practices that have been successful. Any that you will continue to use once the pandemic ends?