



Georgia Head Start Executive Summary

What is the Head Start Program?

Head Start promotes the school readiness of children age's birth to 5 from low income families by supporting their development in a comprehensive way through education and early intervention, health, mental health, oral health, nutrition, and family support services. The program is administered by the Office of Head Start, within the US Department of Health and Human Services. The federal Region IV Office of Head Start, located in Atlanta, oversees all the funded Head Start and EHS programs in Georgia.

Who is eligible to participate in Head Start and EHS?

Head Start grantees serve children ages 3-5 and their families. Early Head Start grantees enroll pregnant women and children up to age 3 and their families. Families are eligible for Head Start and EHS services if the family's income is equal to or below the federal poverty line or the family is eligible for public assistance. Children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care are categorically eligible for the program. Programs are required to implement specific efforts to recruit and enroll children with disabilities and other vulnerable children.

What is the Head Start State Collaboration Office?

The purpose of the Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Office is to foster partnerships between federally funded Head Start programs and other entities in the state that serve low income children (birth to school entry) and their families. The Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Director, housed at the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), is a member of the Georgia's Children's Cabinet and reports directly to DECAL Commissioner, Amy M. Jacobs.

Georgia Head Start Snapshot

Annual GA Program Information Report

Data collected August 2022 by the federal Office of Head Start from Head Start grant recipients.

- Georgia programs were funded by the Office of Head Start to serve **24,088** children, ages 0-5.
- **44%** of all children served in the HS/EHS program were 3 years of age.
- The number of children funded for services at a childcare partner location was **3,280**.
- Early Head Start in Georgia served **5,147** children, age birth to 3, and their families.
- Early Head Start was funded to serve **148** pregnant women.
- Head Start/EHS agencies employed **6,712** current or former enrolled parents.
- **23,846** children were up to date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care per the state's EPSDT schedule by the end of the enrollment year. This percentage doubled from the beginning of their enrollment in Head Start/EHS.
- **27%** of children enrolled in Head Start/EHS were considered overweight or obese according to BMI.
- **100** families had at least one parent/guardian on active duty in the United States military.
- Head Start served **1,684** preschool children with an individualized plan (IEP or IFSP) for a disability (9.56% of the total enrollment).
- EHS served **429** children with an individualized plan (IEP or IFSP) for a disability (8.19% of the total enrollment).
- **902** children experiencing homelessness and **334** children in foster care were enrolled.



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Bright from the Start:

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Allison Setterlind, Head Start Collaboration Office Director
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Suite 754, East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334 Phone: 404-651-7425
allison.setterlind@dec.al.gov



Georgia Head Start Association

Juanita Yancey, Executive Officer
Donnis Pace, President
815 Park North Boulevard
Clarkston, GA 30021
Phone: 404-929-2457
gaheadstartassociation@gmail.com