Georgia's Pre-K Enrollment Survey

Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Each school year throughout the state, the lottery-funded, tuition-free Georgia's Pre-K Program prepares more than 68,000 4-year-olds for kindergarten. To better understand parents' perceptions of the program, the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government in May and June 2026 surveyed 375* families with children age 8 and under.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Have at least one child aged…

- 0-2 years old **38%**
- 3-4 years old **45%**
- 5-8 years old **63%**

81% Female

59% White

58% 35-44 Years Old

63% Bachelor's degree (4-year) or higher

78% Married

53% Under $100,000 Annual Household Income

FAMILIES' THOUGHTS ABOUT PRE-K

Top Priorities For Families When Deciding to Apply to Georgia's Pre-K Program

- The quality of education (82%)
- The provider's safety procedures (80%)
- The provider's reputation (73%)
- Georgia's Pre-K is a free program (68%)
- Their child(ren)'s readiness for school (66%)
- Georgia's Pre-K providers are located near their home (56%)
- Program hours that fit their work/school schedule (50%)
- Availability of open spots at their preferred provider (49%)

99% believe pre-k programs are helpful in getting children ready for school

98% believe Georgia's Pre-K Program would be helpful for their child(ren)

*The data presented in this report is weighted based on demographic characteristics to improve representativeness of Georgia's population and reduce sampling bias.

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ENROLLMENT

Top Reasons Families Enroll their Child(ren) in Georgia's Pre-K Program

68% Want to prepare them for elementary school

51% Want them to practice positive social behaviors

41% Want to identify/support developmental or learning needs early

38% Want them to develop emotional skills

25% Want them to improve language skills

25% Want to provide routine and stability

Top Reasons Families Do NOT Enroll their Child(ren) in Georgia's Pre-K Program

22% Prefer to enroll their child(ren) in a faith-based program

19% Believe private-pay pre-k provide better quality education/care

18% Prefer to enroll their child(ren) in a half-day program

15% Are unaware of Georgia's Pre-K Program

14% Are uncertain of securing a spot at their preferred Georgia's Pre-K provider

14% Prefer to keep current non-Georgia's Pre-K provider

APPLICATION PROCESS



65% found it easy to locate information about Georgia's Pre-K programs in their area

55% of applicants applied to just one Georgia's Pre-K provider

36% who applied or expect to apply in the future would only enroll at their preferred Georgia's Pre-K provider