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Georgia Pre-K Week 2026 Celebrates Today's Learners and Tomorrow's Leaders

Statewide initiative highlights how Georgia's investment in early learning prepares the next generation of Georgia's workforce

ATLANTA – Since its inception more than three decades ago, Georgia's Pre-K Program has helped prepare more than two million children for success in school and beyond. This October, communities across the state will celebrate the program's enduring impact – and the future it continues to build.

Voices for Georgia's Children and the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) today announced that the 16th annual Georgia Pre-K Week will take place October 5-9, 2026, bringing state and local leaders into Georgia Pre-K classrooms across the state to experience how high-quality early learning prepares children for success in school and in life.

This year's theme, Today's Learners. Tomorrow's Leaders., reflects a simple but powerful idea: The four-year-olds learning, exploring, reading, and collaborating in Georgia Pre-K classrooms today are tomorrow's teachers, nurses, engineers, public servants, entrepreneurs, and community leaders.

As Georgia continues to prioritize literacy and kindergarten readiness, Georgia Pre-K Week highlights the important role early learning plays in helping children develop the foundational skills that support lifelong success. Long before children can read independently, they are building vocabulary, communication skills, confidence, curiosity, and problem-solving abilities that prepare them for kindergarten and beyond.

"Every leader starts somewhere," said Judy Fitzgerald, Executive Director of Voices for Georgia's Children. "Georgia's investment in early learning helps children enter kindergarten ready to learn, while laying the foundation for future academic achievement, workforce success, and strong communities. Georgia Pre-K Week reminds us that today's learners are already becoming tomorrow's leaders."

Georgia Pre-K consistently ranks among the nation's leaders in access to high-quality pre-k for four-year-olds. Research continues to demonstrate that children participating in Georgia Pre-K make significant gains in language and literacy, mathematics, and social-emotional development, with benefits extending well beyond kindergarten.

"Since Georgia's Pre-K Program began, teachers in kindergarten and first grade have said they can easily tell if a child in their class attended Georgia Pre-K," said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. "Georgia's Pre-K Program successfully helps prepare children for the next step in their academic experience."

She continued, “DECAL appreciates the steadfast partnership of Voices for Georgia’s Children in sponsoring Georgia Pre-K Week. As partners, we believe that quality early childhood education for today’s learners helps produce tomorrow’s resourceful, responsible, and engaged citizens.”

A new feature of Georgia Pre-K Week 2026 is the *Today’s Learners. Tomorrow’s Leaders.*, a digital storytelling series that highlights adults who attended Georgia Pre-K and are now making a difference in their communities. Their stories illustrate the lasting impact of Georgia’s commitment to quality early childhood care and education. Throughout the week, elected officials, business leaders, and community partners will visit Georgia Pre-K classrooms, participate in reading activities with the students, and celebrate the educators who help children build the skills needed for lifelong learning.

For more information about Georgia Pre-K Week or to register for a classroom visit, visit gaprekweek.org.

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About Voices for Georgia’s Children

Voices for Georgia’s Children is the state’s only comprehensive policy and advocacy organization committed to improving the lives of Georgia’s children. Through research and analysis, public education, convening and engagement with state decision makers, Voices is striving to ensure ALL children thrive. Our work is framed in a holistic “whole child” perspective that allows us to identify how different policies impact children and to propose solutions that benefit children on multiple levels. For more information, go to www.georgiavoices.org.

About Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia’s Child and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages Quality Rated, Georgia’s community powered child care rating system. The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.ga.gov.