

Approved Lead Teacher Credentials

Pre-K providers are responsible for staffing the Pre-K classroom with a qualified lead teacher. A lead teacher must have a valid and current certificate or credential as outlined in the **Credential/Certification Requirements** section of the *Pre-K Providers' Operating Guidelines*. Pre-K providers should review the qualifications carefully to ensure that the lead teacher meets the qualifications to teach in Georgia's Pre-K. All degrees and credentials are verified in the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS) by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC).

What Credentials Are Approved For Lead Teachers?

There are three categories of accepted credentials for Pre-K Lead Teachers. Teachers must have an Early Childhood Education (ECE) or Approved ECE-Related Bachelor's Degree, **OR** Non-ECE Bachelor's or Higher with approved ECE credential, **OR** a Georgia's Teaching Certificate issued by the GAPSC. The following provides a description of each credential category:

Early Childhood Education (ECE) or Approved ECE-Related Bachelor's Degree

Four Year Degree or Higher Credential (Masters, Specialist, etc.) Approved related degrees are listed below.

Early Childhood Education (P-5)	Elementary Education
Birth Through Kindergarten	Elementary Reading and Literacy
Early Childhood Special Education General Curriculum (P-5)	Family & Consumer Science/Home Economics
Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5)	Infant and Child Development
Child and Family Development	Special Education General Curriculum
Child Development	Special Education Adapted Curriculum

Non-ECE Bachelor's or Higher with Approved ECE credential

A teacher with a bachelor's degree (or higher) not related to Early Childhood Education (example: Psychology, Sociology, etc.) must **also** hold one of the following approved ECE credentials:

Associate degree with ECE major	Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) with ECE major or Technical Certificate Diploma (TCD) with ECE major
Montessori Diploma (Montessori courses must be taken from an accredited affiliate of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education [MACTE])	Valid Preschool Child Development Associate (CDA) credential excluding Infant/Toddler CDA, Family Child Care CDA, Home Visitors CDA, and Military School-Age CDA.



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Georgia teaching certificate issued by the GaPSC - T4, T5, T6, T7

Certificate Type: Standard Professional (SR, MSR), Performance Based Professional (PR), Non-Renewable Professional (N, N1, N3), Life Certificate (D), Provisional Certificate (BT), Induction Certificates (I1, I3, I5), Military Provisional Certificates (MB1, MB2, MB3), Supplemental Induction (SIT, MSI), Waiver (W), International Exchange (X)

FLD808 Elementary Education (P-5)	FLD732 Reading Specialist
FLD870 Birth Through Kindergarten	FLD885 ESOL English to Speakers of Other Languages
FLD708 Special Education General Curriculum Elementary Education (P-5)	FLD420 Montessori PK2-K (ages 2 ½ - 6)
FLD826 Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5) Endorsement	FLD799 Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5)
FLD805 Special Education Adapted Curriculum with ALL Special Education Academic Content Concentrations	FLD798 Special Education General Curriculum with ALL Special Education Academic Content Concentrations

- ONLY the certification in the field codes listed above qualify for certified funding rates.
- The **"Validity Date"** is the beginning date of certification for Georgia's Pre-K teachers. DECAL does not issue waivers for certification; therefore, teachers who have pending certification are paid at the verified credential level.

How Do I Know A Teacher's Credential Has Been Verified And Meets Requirements?

Teachers must enroll in the Georgia Professional Development System ([GaPDS](#)) and submit any required supporting documents to verify credentials and degrees. Pre-K Providers should request for the teacher to provide a copy of their GaPDS profile. A teacher who meets the credential requirement for a Pre-K Lead Teacher will have a notation of **Qualifies for GA Pre-K Lead**.



A lead teacher is determined as eligible to serve in the position once their credential/degree has been verified through GaPDS. A teacher's credential level is considered Insufficient until it is verified.

Additional Resources Available:

For more information regarding Lead Teacher Credentials, additional resources are available at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/Prek/ProjectDirectors.aspx>

Questions?

Please contact PreKBusiness.Support@decal.ga.gov