

2024 – 2025 Lead Teacher Credentials / Certificates and Salary

A Georgia's Pre-K Program lead teacher must have one of the following valid and current certificates or credentials listed below. Pre-K providers should review the qualifications and conditions carefully to ensure that the lead teacher qualifies 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).

The salary rates reflect 100% of the base salary funded by DECAL to the provider. Providers are required to pay lead teachers 100% of the total base salary funded by DECAL. Actual compensation may vary based on the number of days and hours worked.

ECE or Approved ECE-Related Bachelor's Degree – Four Year Degree or Higher Credential (Masters, Specialist, etc.)
Early Childhood Education (P-5)
Birth Through Kindergarten
Early Childhood Special Education General Curriculum (P-5)
Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5)
Child and Family Development
Child Development
Elementary Education
Elementary Reading and Literacy
Family & Consumer Science/Home Economics
Infant and Child Development
Special Education General Curriculum
Special Education Adapted Curriculum
Four Year Degree Lead Teacher Salary: \$36,815.60

Bachelor's Degree not related to Early Childhood Education
A teacher with a bachelor's degree not related to Early Childhood Education must also hold one of the following approved ECE credentials: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate degree with ECE major• Technical College Diploma (TCD) with ECE major• Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) with ECE major (<i>The Early Childhood Care and Education Program Administration TCC program is designed to prepare students for a job as manager of a Childcare Learning Center and will not meet the TCC requirement.</i>)• Montessori Diploma (<i>Montessori courses must be taken from an accredited affiliate of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education [MACTE]</i>)• Valid Preschool Child Development Associate (CDA) credential issued by the Council for Professional Recognition. <i>Note: The following CDA credentials will not meet the CDA requirement for a lead teacher: Infant/Toddler CDA, Family Child Care CDA, Home Visitors CDA, and Military School-Age CDA. Teachers with an expired CDA or in the process of renewing an expired CDA will not meet the CDA requirement.</i>
Non-ECE Degree Lead Teacher Salary Funded by DECAL: \$36,815.60

T4 (Georgia teaching certificate issued by the GaPSC) Four Year Degree & Teaching Certificate Level 4 , 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)	
PSC Certification Field Codes	
FLD808	Elementary Education (P-5)
FLD870	Birth Through Kindergarten
FLD708	Special Education General Curriculum Elementary Education (P-5)
FLD799	Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5)
FLD826	Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5) Endorsement
FLD805	Special Education Adapted Curriculum. The teacher must also hold ALL the Special Education Academic Content Concentrations (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies)
FLD798	Special Education General Curriculum. The teacher must also hold ALL the Special Education Academic Content Concentrations (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies)
FLD732	Reading Specialist
FLD885	ESOL English to Speakers of Other Languages
FLD420	Montessori PK2-K (ages 2 ½ - 6)
Important Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-of-state certified at the bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education applies to one school year only. • Only the certifications in the field codes listed above qualify for certified teacher 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. 	
T4 Lead Teacher Salary Funded by DECAL: \$45,320.73	

T5 (Georgia teaching certificate issued by GaPSC) Master's Degree & Teaching Certificate Level 5 , 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)	
PSC Certification Field Codes	
FLD808	Elementary Education (P-5)
FLD870	Birth Through Kindergarten
FLD708	Special Education General Curriculum Elementary Education (P-5)
FLD799	Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5)
FLD826	Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5) Endorsement

FLD805	Special Education Adapted Curriculum. The teacher must also hold ALL the Special Education Academic Content Concentrations (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies)
FLD798	Special Education General Curriculum. The teacher must also hold ALL the Special Education Academic Content Concentrations (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies)
FLD732	Reading Specialist
FLD885	ESOL English to Speakers of Other Languages
FLD420	Montessori PK2-K (ages 2 ½ - 6)
Important Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-of-state certified at the master's level in Early Childhood Education applies to one school year only. • Only the certifications in the field codes listed above qualify for certified teacher 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. • Classes that have teachers with a T6 or T7 (Georgia teaching certificates issued by PSC) will be funded at the T5 rate. 	
T5 Lead Teacher Salary Funded by DECAL: \$49,843.04	