

March 17, 2026

Dear Pre-K Director,

On March 3, 2026, Governor Kemp signed the amended FY2026 budget which includes a one-time supplemental bonus of \$2,000 for each eligible Georgia's Pre-K lead and assistant teachers.

The funding for the supplemental bonus will be received as a special payment. The payment will be processed by March 31<sup>st</sup> and will provide \$2,153.00 per eligible lead and assistant teacher. To be eligible, the teacher must be a full-time employee (not a substitute) and be listed in the Class Reporting Manager/Roster 4. See below for guidance and important information regarding the payment.

- DECAL will pay a total of \$2,153.00 for each lead and assistant teacher reported in the Class Reporting Manager/Roster 4. Classes with lead and/or assistant teachers identified with *Multiple Substitutes Used* will not receive a payment for that teacher position.
  - The per teacher funding includes the \$2000.00 bonus supplement and an additional \$153.00 for the 7.65% FICA.
- The payment will be paid through the GAPREK system and a payment advice detailing the payment will be available in GAPREK.
- Pre-K providers are responsible for distributing the one-time payment directly to Pre-K employees; it may not be held, split into multiple payments, or delayed until the end of the school year.
- Private providers must issue the payment by **April 30, 2026**, while Public (Local School Systems) providers should follow the payment schedule for their other eligible employees.

Please see below for important Frequently Asked Questions. In addition, ensure this information is shared with your finance personnel and Pre-K teaching staff. If you have questions, email [prekbusiness.support@decals.ga.gov](mailto:prekbusiness.support@decals.ga.gov).

Thank you and your staff for all you do for Georgia's children.

Sincerely,  
Susan Adams  
Deputy Commissioner  
Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports

## Frequently Asked Questions

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Does this special payment need to be included in my reconciliation?	Yes, these funds will be included in the Special Payment section of your 2025-2026 reconciliation. Funds must be spent for the intended purpose and are subject to audit. Supplemental payments not paid to the Pre-K lead or assistant teacher must be returned to DECAL through the Pre-K year end reconciliation process.
Are bonus payments subject to taxes?	Please consult your tax advisor if you have questions about tax withholdings.
What accounting code should be used for local school systems?	The funding source is "Lottery". Please consult with your finance department regarding the specific code you should use.
Is the \$2,000.00 considered a salary raise?	No, this is a supplemental bonus for the current school year <u>only</u> and is not a permanent increase in teacher salaries.
I currently have a Multiple Substitute Used "MSU" in my Class Reporting Manager for one of my Pre-K teachers. Will I receive the bonus money for this position?	No, only classes with lead and/or assistant teachers identified in the Class Reporting Manager will be paid the supplemental bonus payment.