



Georgia's Pre-K Updates

May 17, 2024



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Today's Agenda

- Wrapping up the school year
 - Payments
 - WSO
- Looking toward next school year
 - Budget
 - Processes for New School Year
- New IT System
 - Get GAPREK Ready!
 - Information Sessions



Wrapping Up the School Year



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Pre-K Payment Reminders

- May 20: Final Day for Payment Disputes
 - Review your payment advice and confirm payments are correct.
 - If the payment does not reflect the reported roster data, a payment dispute should be submitted to panda.finance@dec.al.ga.gov.
- An example of a payment dispute is the lead teacher salary not calculating according to what was reported on the Pre-K roster.
- The dispute process is not intended to address lead teacher credential and CYE matters that should have been resolved prior to the last Pre-K payment.



Additional Funding for SY2023-2024 New Classes

- An additional start-up payment will be made for new and expansion classes funded during the CURRENT school year and will be open next school year.
 - Each classroom will receive \$22,000.
 - Funding must be used for furniture, materials, and supplies from the Pre-K Basic Materials List.
 - Funding can also be used for playground or additional technology if approved.
- Payments will be made the week of **May 20th**.
- Work with your Pre-K Specialist to approve purchases.
- Purchases should be made and funding expended by **June 30th**.



Work Sampling System

- All WSO Logins will be disabled on July 2nd. All 2023 - 2024 data will be removed to prepare the system for the 2024 - 2025 school year.
- Any 2023-2024 WSO year-end reports that you need for future use must be generated before the data is deleted on **July 2nd**.
- **Administrator** logins will be reinstated on **August 5th**.
- **Teacher** logins will be reinstated on **August 19th**. Start-up reminders will be sent to you and your teachers via email.



Looking Toward Next School Year



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2024-2025 School Year Pre-K Budget

- Significant support and investment in the Pre-K Budget from the Governor and State General Assembly
- Increased funding to increase program access, teacher salary, and program quality

State Lottery Funds Change			
FY 2024	FY 2025	Increase	% Change
\$443,790,064	\$541,598,948	\$97,633,884	22%



Pre-K Budget Changes- Operating

- Reduce to class size to 20 students
- Increase classroom start-up grants to \$30,000 per class
- Pay \$15,000 classroom replenishment grants every 5 years
- Provide transportation funding for all students
 - Provide transportation funds of \$80.78 per student (annual) for all students
 - Transportation funds will be include as part of operating funds



Pre-K Budget Changes- Private Operating

- Annual increase in operating funds (24%)
 - Metro: \$6,830.80
 - Non-metro: \$5,209.09



FY25 Pre-K Budget Changes- Public Schools Operating

- Pre-K included in GaDOE Capital Outlay Formula Program
- Benefits:
 - Certified Lead Teachers:
 - Increase in Teacher Retirement System from 19.98% to 20.78%
 - Move to per-member, per-month (PMPM) rate for certified lead teachers who participate in the State Health Benefit Program.
 - The PMPM rate for the 10 Pre-K payments will be \$2,112.



FY25 Pre-K Budget Changes- Teacher Salary

- Increase lead and assistant teacher salary and improve salary parity between Pre-K and K-12
 - Increase base salary by \$2,500 for leads and assistants
 - Move lead teachers to the K-12 Training and Experience (T&E) scale
 - Increase assistant teacher salary to provide pay parity with K - 12



FY25 Pre-K Budget Changes- Lead Teachers

- Base salary increase: \$2,500 at all approved credential levels.
- Move to the State Salary Schedule for Teachers (GaDOE K-12)
 - K-12 Training & Experience will replace Pre-K Creditable Years of Experience (CYE).
- Funding for salary increases will be paid in two phases:
 - **August & September Pre-K Payments:**
 - Lead Teacher salary will be calculated as FY24 base salary + \$2,500 + FY24 CYE supplement.
 - **Beginning with October Payment:**
 - Lead Teacher salary will be calculated based on the FY25 State Salary Schedule for Teachers.
 - If a teacher is eligible for an increase, then the funding will be adjusted for October-May payments. In addition, a positive retro will be paid for August and September.
 - If a teacher's current salary is more than the new salary 'step,' then the salary will not be adjusted. No negative retros will be taken.



FY25 Pre-K Budget Changes- Assistant Teachers

- Increase in Assistant Teacher Salary by 27.5%
 - Governor's increase: \$2,500
 - Additional increase: \$3,051
 - **New total salary: \$25,741.38**
- Funding for salary increases will begin in August.



Budget Next Steps

- Estimated Per Child Rate Chart will be posted by end of May.
- Additional clarifications will be provided in the Information Sessions.
 - Able to ask specific questions
- Creating a FAQ based on provider questions.
- Developing a process for Replenishment Grants (\$15,000).



New Processes for SY2024- 2025



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Processes for the New School Year

- PANDA (Open mid-June)
 - Class Moves and Closures
 - Funding Notifications
 - Verification of Lawful Presence
 - Start-up funding for new classes
- GAPREK- Live on July 1
 - Grant Agreements will come from DocuSign
 - Sign electronically and return
 - Calendar Submission and Approval
 - Teacher Waiver Requests



2024-2025 Requests for Teacher Credential Waivers

- **Waiver Extension Application and New Credential Waiver Application will be available in July.**
 - Providers will be notified via email when credential waiver applications are available.
- Two Types of Waiver Requests:
 - Waiver Extension
 - Submit for a waived teacher who will not hold a qualifying credential by fall 2024.
 - Submit if the teacher is currently pursuing an approved credential.
 - New Credential Waiver
 - Submit for a teacher who is new to your program.
 - Submit if the teacher is currently pursuing an approved credential.



New GAPREK System



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New GAPre-K System

- New system, GAPREK, will launch on July 1, 2024.
- New Phase 1 functionality will include:
 - Electronic signature and submission of grant agreements
 - Online submission process for waivers and requests
 - Real-time teacher and student data entry
 - Automated teacher and student data verification
 - Revised payment advices
 - Updated Pre-K visit process
- Future Phase to include a Family Portal
 - Electronic submission of forms and documents
 - Online waiting list



Get GAPREK Ready!

- Check your Pre-K Project Director information and email address.
 - Email should be unique to the individual
 - Email should be the **same** as CAPS email if managing both programs
- All users in the new system will need a unique email address.
- Update any banking account changes by June 14th.
 - Submit *Supplier Change Request Form* to prek@dec.al.ga.gov
 - Form located on Project Director webpage under "Pre-K Bank Account Change Request".



Get GAPREK Ready!

- Upcoming communication and training opportunities
 - DECAL Download Podcast: *posted on April 23rd*
 - GAPREK Webpage: *Launch Mid-May*
 - Regional Information Sessions: *Last 2 weeks of May*
 - Webinars & Tutorial Videos: *Posted weekly beginning mid-June*
 - Training:
 - Virtual: *Beginning in July*
 - In-person: *August*

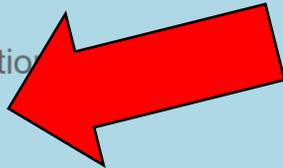


GAPREK Webpage

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On July 1, 2024, Georgia's Pre-K Program will transition from the current Pre-K Application and Database Access (PANDA) system to the new Georgia's Pre-K System (GAPREK). [Learn More](#)



 / Georgia's Pre-K / Pre-K



Pre-K

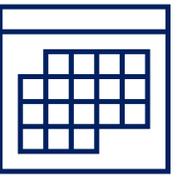
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Pre-K Information Sessions

- Sessions held in Savannah, Macon, Tifton, Lawrenceville, Dalton, and Atlanta
 - 9:00 – 11:00: Public Schools
 - 1:00 – 3:00: Child Care Programs
- Register for session in GaPDS.
- While the session is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged for Pre-K Project Directors. Site Directors are also welcome to attend.
- A recorded webinar will be provided mid-June with the same information.



Dates to Remember



- May 20: Last day to submit a payment dispute
- May 21: Information Sessions begin
- May 27: State Offices Closed
- June 30: Deadline for new and expansion classes to spend \$22,000 additional start-up funds
- July 1: **GAPREK System Live!**
 - Watch for your log-in email.
 - Grant Agreement will be sent by DocuSign in the new system.
- July 2: WSO logins disabled
- July 4: State Office Closed



Questions



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Thank You!

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