



Georgia's Pre-K Updates

May 19, 2023



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Communication



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/ Georgia's Pre-K / Project Directors



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- About Pre-K
- Book List
- Childrens Mental Health Week
- Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
- Creating a Quality Learning Environment
- Curriculum
- Enrolling in Pre-K
- Families
- FAQ
- GA's Pre-K At Home
- Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Operating Guidelines

PROJECT DIRECTORS

Project directors are responsible for appropriately implementating Georgia's Pre-K Program. Many resources are available on this website to assist directors in effectively managing their program and in making quality improvements to the Pre-K classroom.

The following is a list of items and/or documents to support you in implementing Georgia's Pre-K Program.

Project Director Resource List:

- + Pre-K Providers Operating Guidelines
- + Georgia's Pre-K Rate / Per Child Estimate Chart
- + Resources
- + PANDA Roster: Change Request Forms, Tips Sheets, Webinars, and Other Resources
- + 2022 – 2023 Georgia's Pre-K Updates and FAQ
- + Child Registration and Waiting List Information Forms
- + Georgia's Pre-K Credential Information



Pre-K Payments



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Pre-K Payments

- May 19: 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/or CYE matters that should have been addressed/resolved prior to the last Pre-K payment.



Pre-K Payments

- Two additional payments in May.
 - Transportation: A payment for December – May was processed on May 17th.
 - Benefits: A payment will be made by May 26th to local school system grantees for increased state health benefit rate for January-June. If you have questions, email PreK@dec.al.ga.gov



\$5,000 Classroom Grant Funding Reminder

- Classroom grant payments were paid through the PANDA system in October 2022.
- The funding must be expended for instructional materials, technology, approved Pre-K curricula, and furniture for use in the Pre-K classroom.
 - No prior approval required to purchase Pre-K curricula and items on the *Georgia's Pre-K Program Basic Equipment, Materials and Supplies Inventory List*. Contact your Pre-K Specialist for approval for items not included on the list.
- Tax and shipping for orders may be included in purchases.
- Funds must be spent, and goods received by **June 30, 2023**. Any funds not spent must be returned through the 2022-2023 Pre-K Year-End Reconciliation process.



\$5,000 **NEW** Classroom Grant Funding Reminder

- In April 2023, classroom grant payments were paid through the PANDA system to new classes awarded in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school year.
- These funds are in addition to the classroom grant payments paid to programs in October 2022.
- The funding must be expended for instructional materials and technology for the new class.
 - Your Pre-K Specialist must approve purchases prior to purchase.
- Tax and shipping for orders may be included in purchases.
- Funds must be spent, and goods received by **June 30, 2023**. Any funds not spent must be returned to DECAL through the 2022-2023 Pre-K Year-End Reconciliation process.



Supporting Teachers



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Requests for Teacher Credential Waivers

- Waiver Extension Request ([Extension requests available now](#))
 - Providers with a waived teacher who will not hold a qualifying credential by fall 2023 may now request a waiver extension if the teacher is pursuing an approved credential.
 - Waiver extension requests must be submitted online in PANDA.
- New Credential Waiver for 2023-2024 ([New waiver application available in July](#))
 - The application to request a NEW credential waiver for the 2023-2024 school year is not available yet.
 - You may request a new credential waiver in July when the roster system is open for teacher data entry. Providers will be notified via email when the roster system is open.
- Steps for submitting credential waivers in PANDA are included in the *Request for Waiver of Teacher Credential Instructions* document posted on the Pre-K Project Directors webpage. If you have questions, email panda.teachers@dec.al.ga.gov.



CDA with CLASS Program

- DECAL, in partnership with Teachstone, is offering the CDA CLASS Facilitated program at **no cost** to participants.
- Program provides teachers with guidance and support to complete their required coursework and portfolio requirements, while learning ways to improve teacher-student interactions.
- Once participants finish the Teachstone training, they will be able to apply for DECAL Scholars to cover the observation/assessment fee. The CDA is completely free for those that meet the DECAL Scholars eligibility criteria.
- Great opportunity for teachers who do not hold an approved credential and are not currently enrolled in a credentialing program.
 - Assistant teacher who will not hold a qualifying credential by fall 2023
 - Lead teacher with a GaPDS verified non-ECE bachelor's degree who will not hold one of the add-on credentials listed in section 12.4 of Pre-K Guidelines by fall 2023
- Teachers should contact proflearning@decalscholars.org for registration information.



Work Sampling System

- All WSO Logins will be disabled on July 2nd. All 2022-2023 data will be removed to prepare the system for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Any 2022-2023 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 7th**.
- **Teacher** logins will be reinstated on **August 21st**. Start-up reminders will be sent to you and your teachers via email.



Feelings and Emotions Book Set



- To celebrate Georgia's Pre-K 30th birthday, each Georgia's Pre-K class received the Feelings and Emotions book set from Lakeshore Publishing.
- Each book focuses on a different emotion and can be used to help children recognize a variety of emotions and learn positive approaches to express their own feelings.
- Resources for using the books can be found under the Pre-K Story Time Tab and on the Teacher Resource Page.



Pyramid Model Resource

- Pyramid model videos are available on the Pre-K Teacher webpage under the section entitled, “The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Development in Young Children.”
- Each of the brief videos features a component of the Pyramid Model kit and provides examples of it in use in a Georgia's Pre-K classroom.

The screenshot shows the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning website. The header includes the logo and tagline "BRIGHT FROM THE START", a "Contact" button, and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest, and LinkedIn. A search bar is located below the social media icons. The navigation menu includes "Agency", "Programs", "Families", "Teachers", "Providers", "STABLE/Workforce", and "Open Records". The main content area is titled "RESOURCES FOR THE GEORGIA'S PRE-K" and lists several resource categories with expandable options:

- Pre-K
 - About Pre-K
 - Book List
 - Childrens Mental Health Week
 - Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
 - Creating a Quality Learning Environment
 - Curriculum
 - Enrolling in Pre-K
- RESOURCES FOR THE GEORGIA'S PRE-K
 - + General Information
 - + Emergency Closure Resources
 - + Social and Emotional Tools
 - + Family Engagement and Resources
 - + The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Development in Young Children

A red arrow points to the link "The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Development in Young Children" in the resources list.



Pyramid Model Training

- The [Pyramid Model](#) is a framework of evidence-based practices for promoting young children's **healthy social and emotional development**
- DECAL is utilizing federal recovery funds to provide Pyramid Model training to the early learning workforce
 - Directors/ Administrators/ Principals
 - Infant, Toddler, Preschool & Pre-K teachers
- Training will include online e-modules and professional learning community sessions



- DECAL will train approximately 1,000 educators by September 2024
 - 22 programs will participate in the pilot training series beginning in March
- Participants will receive a \$400 stipend and \$175 in Class Wallet funds to purchase Pyramid Model materials
- Child Trends is conducting an evaluation of the training series
- If your program is interested in the training, please email prek@decal.ga.gov



Looking Toward Next Year



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Grant Awards

- Funding decisions were finalized this week.
- Grant notifications will be sent out beginning next week.
- Some grantees may need to complete additional steps prior to receiving grant agreement. Check email for information and complete.
- Additional new and expansion classrooms may be funded over the summer and at the beginning of the school year.
- If you have questions, please email prek@dec.al.ga.gov



State Lottery Funds Change

FY 2023	FY 2024	Increase	% Change
\$400,900,881	\$443,790,064	\$42,889,183	10.7%

- Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees (Pre-K State Staff) effective July 1, 2023, to address agency recruitment and retention needs = \$202,326
- Reflect an adjustment in Merit System Assessment billings = \$2,782
- Reduce formula funds for training and experience for Pre-K teachers= \$(178,981)
- Increase formula funds for classroom operations and redirect existing funding to Pre-K lead teacher salaries = \$14,035,636
- Increase funds to adjust the state base salary schedule to increase salaries for certified Pre-K teachers and assistant teachers by \$2,000 = \$20,647,514
- Increase formula funds to reflect an increase in the employer contribution for State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) from 18.534% to 29.454% of salary for certified lead employed public school Pre-K providers = \$8,179,906

FY 2024 Appropriation



SY 2024 Pre-K Budget: Salary

- Increase of \$2,000 per lead teacher and assistant teachers (all levels)
- 100% of salary for **lead** and assistant teachers required
 - Elimination of the 90% rule for lead teachers



SY 2024 Pre-K Budget: Operating

- Classroom Operating: Increase of \$3676.16 per classroom
- Classroom Benefits:
 - Increase of \$475.20 per teacher due to salary increase; total per class \$950.40
 - Increase in benefit rate for certified lead teachers in public schools
 - Health increased to 29.454%; total benefit rate increased to 50.884%



DECAL Legislative Update

House Working Group on Early Education

Focus on policies to expand access to Pre-Kindergarten.

HB 538 GA Early Literacy Act

Requires teachers in licensed childcare facilities to receive training on developmentally evidence-based literacy instruction.

SB211 GA Council on Literacy

Creates the Council to conduct a comprehensive review of birth to postsecondary literacy programs.



Longitudinal Study of Georgia's Pre-K Program

Final Report
Pre-K through 4th Grade



Study Findings



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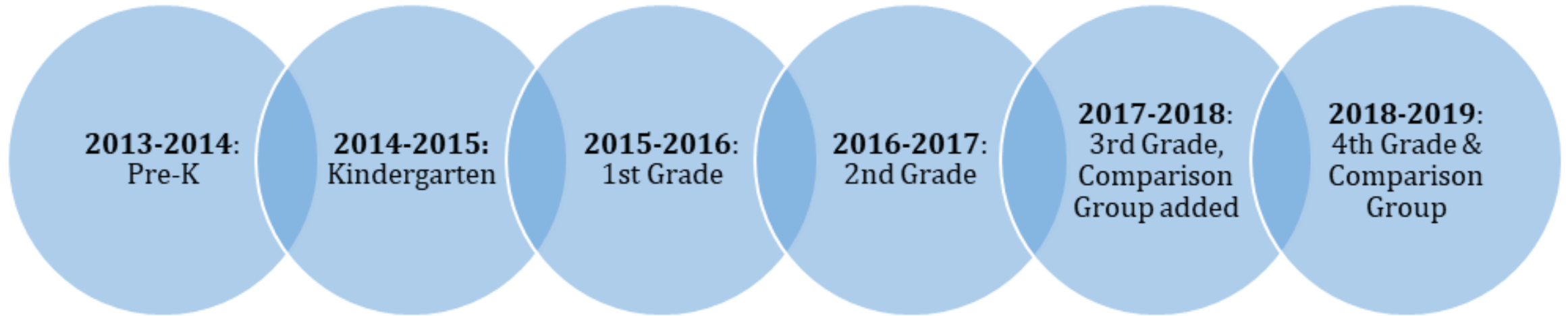


Georgia's Pre-K Evaluation Overview

- Funded by the Georgia General Assembly in 2011. DECAL commissioned FPG Child Development Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill to conduct the research.
- Evaluation includes three studies:
 - Pre-K Outcomes Study (2011-2012)
 - Regression Discontinuity Design Study (2012-2013)
 - Longitudinal Study (2013-2019)
- **Overall, results from the three studies demonstrate positive impact of Georgia's Pre-K Program on school readiness skills across all learning domains.**
- DECAL is releasing the final study report in May 2023



Study Timeline



Selected Findings

- Most within-grade gains were in Pre-K and 4th Grade.
- By 4th grade, children scored at or above the national average on six of the nine standardized assessments.
- Scores for the vocabulary measure have been below the national average throughout the study.
- Dual language learners were slightly below the national norm for language and literacy skills measured in English, and well below the national norm for skills measured in Spanish.
- Classroom quality was in the moderate to high range.
- More classrooms fell in the high-quality range in Pre-K than any other grade.
 - Less than 1% of Pre-K classes fell into the low range.



General Conclusions

- A key strength of Georgia's Pre-K Program is building foundational language and literacy skills for reading.
- Vocabulary development is an area of growth for children ages birth to five, but also kindergarten to 4th grade.
- While classroom quality is highest in Pre-K, it is relatively consistent throughout the study.



Next Steps: Georgia's Pre-K Language Study

Research Questions:

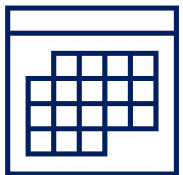
1. What Pre-K practices and contextual factors support children's language skills in Georgia's Pre-K classrooms?
2. Is there variation in children's language experiences within classrooms?
3. Do student characteristics predict differences in language experiences?

Sample: 146 classrooms and 663 children



Dates to Remember

- May 19: Last day to submit a payment dispute
- May 24: 2023-2024 calendars open in PANDA
- May 29: State Offices Closed
- June 30: Deadline for spending \$5,000 Classroom Grants
- June 30: Deadline for spending \$5,000 NEW Classroom Grants
- June 30: Deadline for submitting 2023-2024 calendars in PANDA



Questions



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Thank You!

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