Georgia's Pre-K Program

Pre-K Updates

August 27, 2021

Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

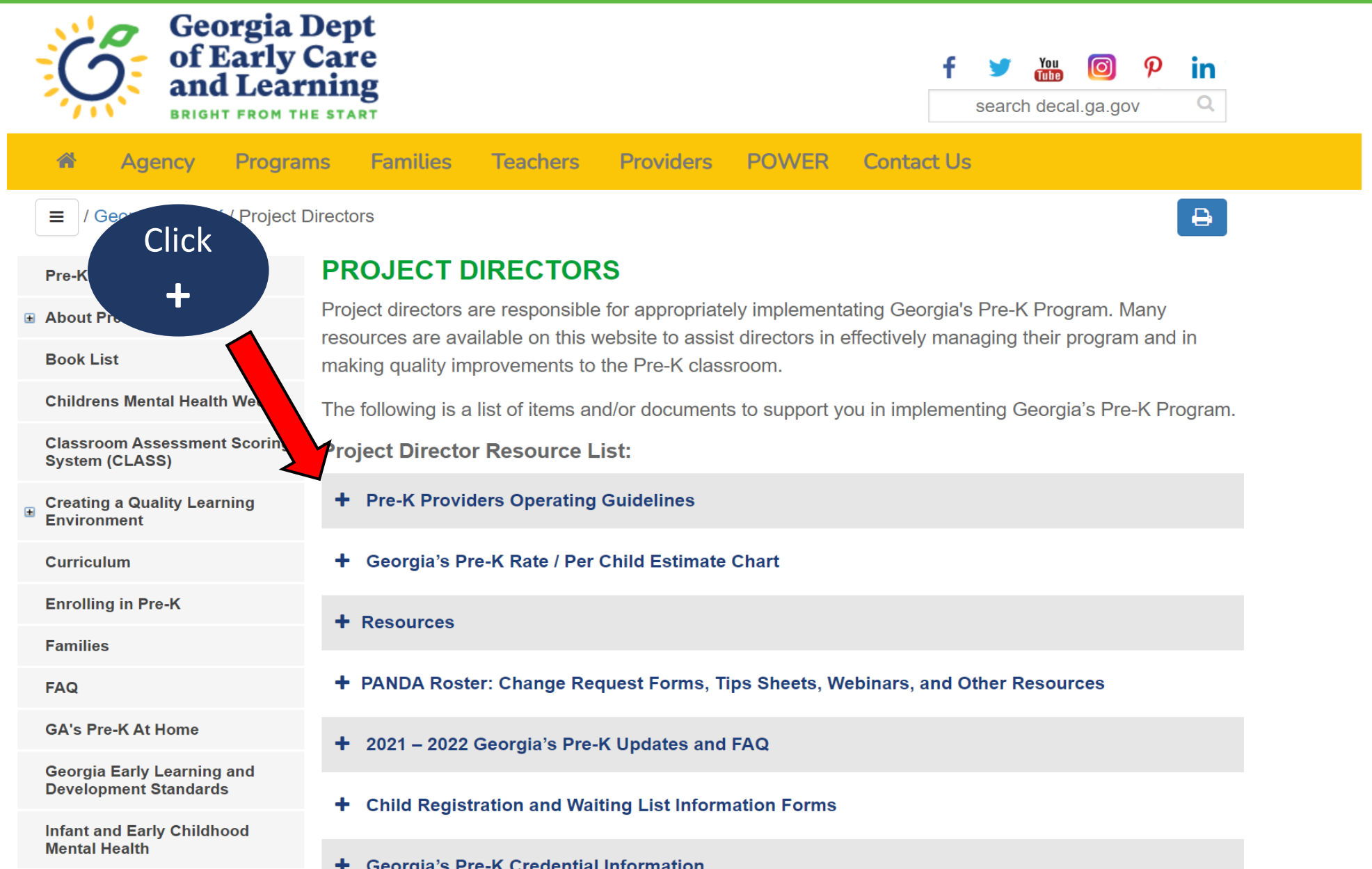
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Today's Agenda

- Communication
- 2021-2022 Instructional Model
- Pre-K Rosters and Payments
- Staffing the Classroom
- Supporting Teachers
  - Resources
  - Training
  - Work Sampling Online
  - Employment Terms Document
  - Pre-K Specialist Support and Visits
- Important Dates
- Questions

Communication

Communication



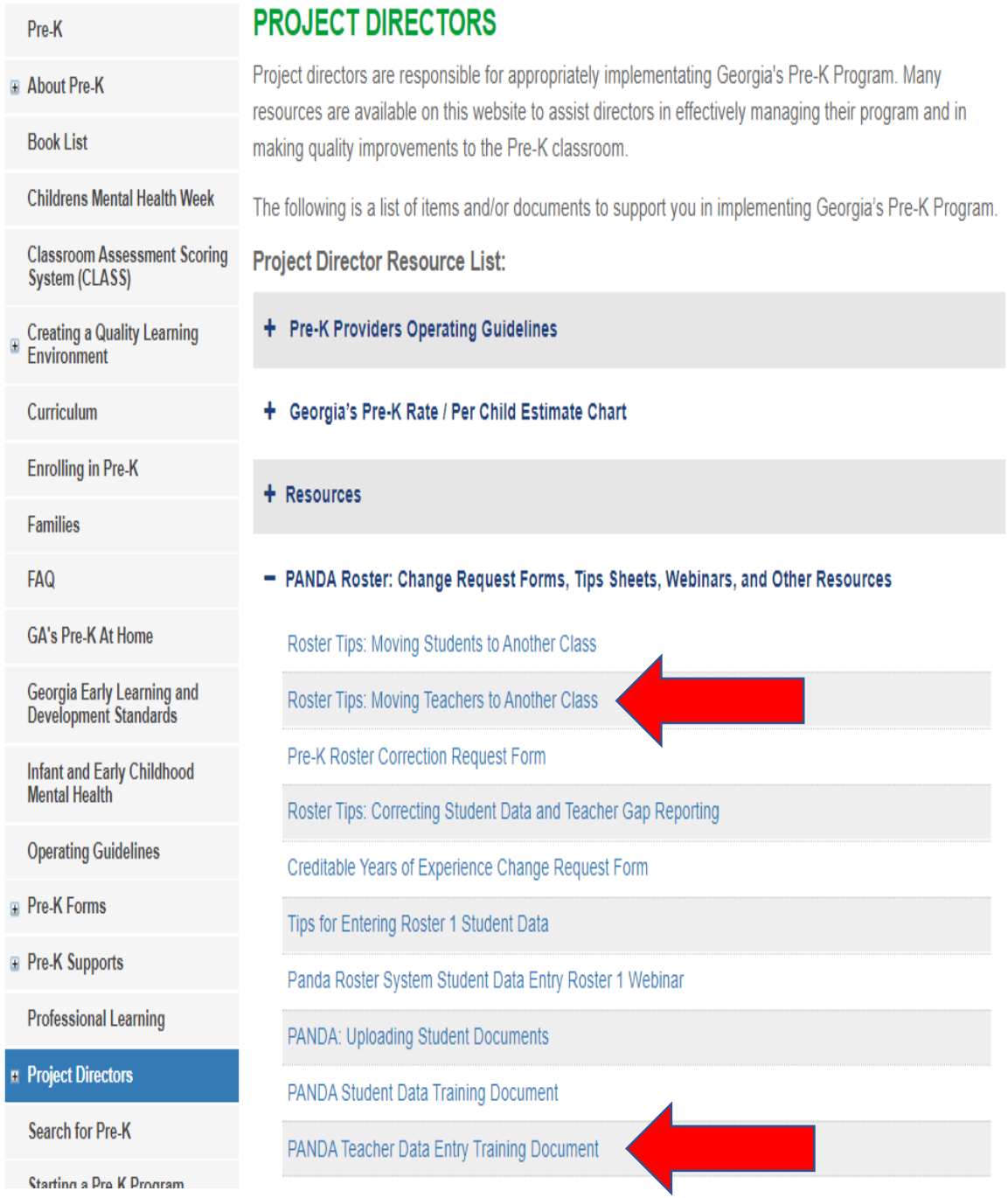
2021 - 2022 Instructional Model

- Returning to traditional face to face classroom instruction.
- Currently hybrid and full distance models are not being approved.
- Distance learning can be utilized for temporary closures due to Covid 19 quarantine and inclement weather.
- Must report closures to your Pre-K Specialist.

Pre-K Rosters & Payments

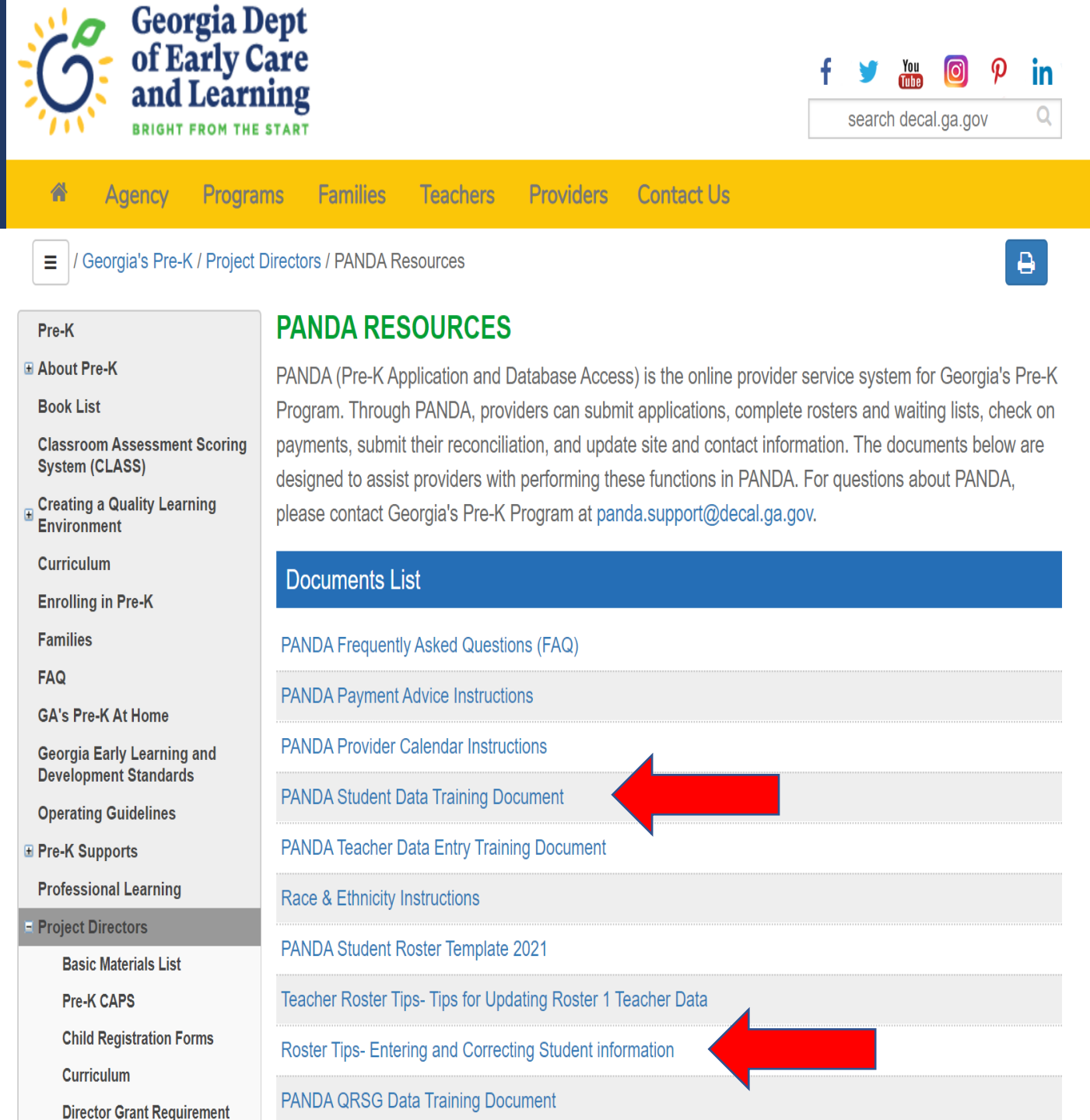
Teacher Rosters

- Teacher Information Screens are open.
- Please review and update Lead and Assistant Teacher information.
- Information will be used for the August payment calculation.
- PANDA Resources
  - *PANDA Teacher Data Entry Training Document*
  - *Roster Tips*
- Need help? Email panda.teachers@decal.ga.gov



Roster 1

- Count date is September 3rd.
  - Only enter enrolled students on your roster.
  - Make sure that you have confirmed each child's attendance in the classroom.
- Roster 1 must be submitted by September 13th for all classrooms.
- PANDA Resources
  - *PANDA Student Data Entry Training Document*
  - *Roster Tips*
- Need help? Email panda.rosters@decal.ga.gov



Pre-K Rosters

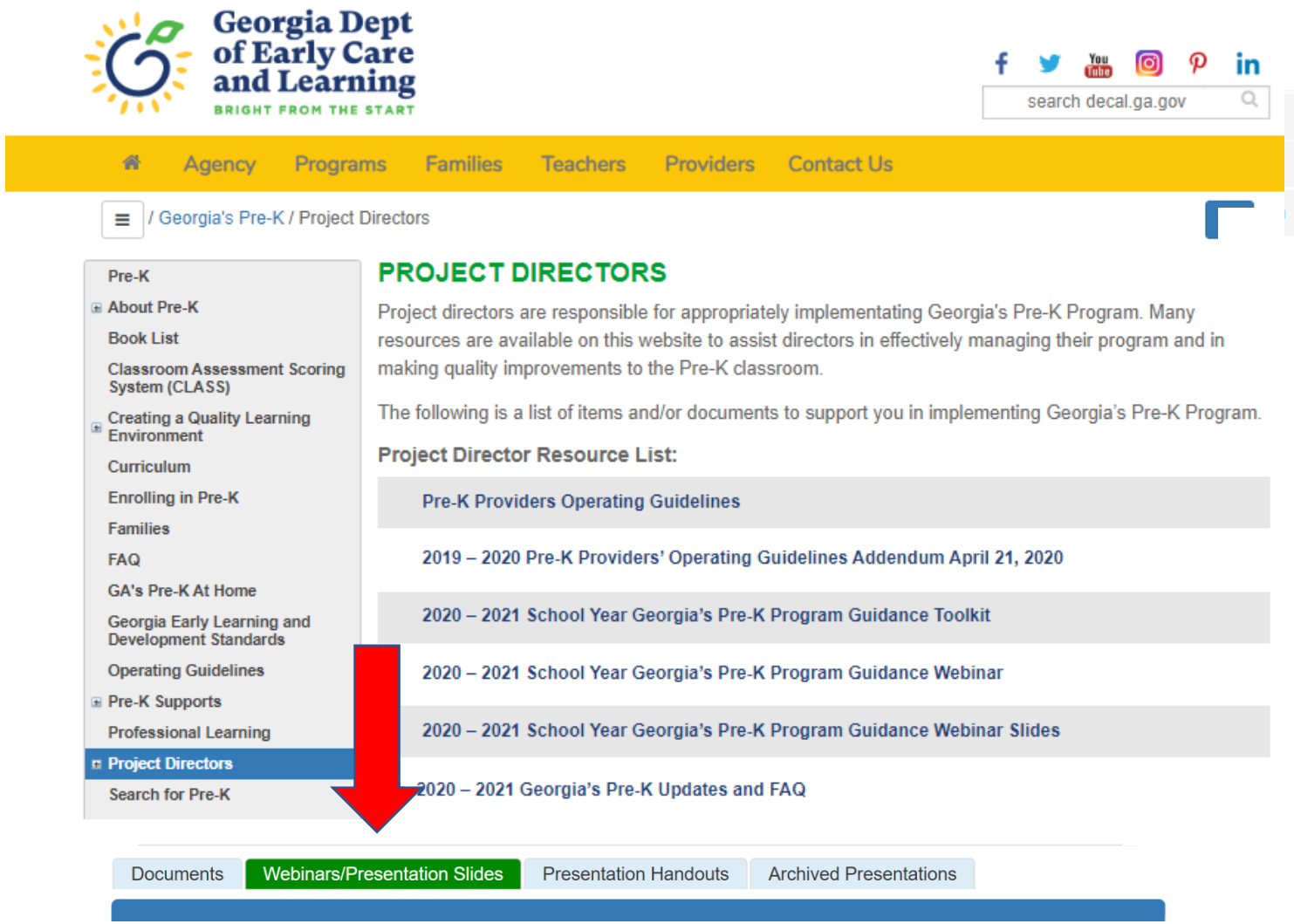
2021 - 2022

Roster Due Dates

Roster	Roster Open for Data Entry	Count Day	Due Date to DECAL
1	August 2, 2021	September 3, 2021	September 13, 2021
2	October 4, 2021	November 5, 2021	November 12, 2021
3	December 10, 2021	January 14, 2022	January 21, 2022
4	February 11, 2022	March 11, 2022	March 18, 2022

Rosters

2021 - 2022



Payments

2021 - 2022

- Pre-K payments will be processed by the 14th of each month or the next business day.
- The August and September payments will be based on the Grant Agreement.
- Roster 1 data will be reviewed to determine if payments will be prorated based on student enrollment after the September payment.

Staffing the classroom

- Each Pre-K classroom should be staffed with a credentialed lead and assistant teacher.
  - Review Pre-K Guidelines for credentials.
  - Multiple options for meeting the credential requirement
  - Assistant teacher age requirement of 21 removed in current guidelines.
- Due to the pandemic, many programs are struggling to find teachers with the appropriate credential.
  - Work with your higher education programs to identify appropriate candidates
  - Post open positions on DECAL website
  - Consider delaying the start of school
  - Apply for a **credential waiver**

Applying for a Credential Waiver

2021 - 2022

- Providers that are unable to fill a lead or assistant teacher position with a sufficiently credentialed teacher can request a waiver of teacher credential.
- Salary information is provided on the waiver form.
- *Request for Waiver of Teacher Credential* form is posted under the Project Director Resource List.
  - Submit the form to your Pre-K Specialist for review and approval.
- Currently working on new DECAL Scholars supports for Pre-K teachers on a waiver. More information coming soon!

Employment Terms Document

2021 - 2022

- Beginning in school year 2021-2022, all Pre-K grantees are required to have written documentation detailing the employment terms between the employer and all Georgia's Pre-K lead teachers. This written documentation is recommended, but not required, for Pre-K assistant teachers.

- The employment terms document should include the following, at a minimum:
  - Employment beginning and end dates
  - Compensation information
  - Benefits information
  - Broad scope of work

- Refer to Section 11. 3 of the Pre-K Providers' Operating Guidelines for details.
  - Appendix Z – *Sample Georgia's Pre-K At-Will Employment Agreement* provides guidance in developing written documentation detailing the employment terms between the employer and all Georgia's Pre-K lead teachers.

- If your program already uses an employment terms document (employment contract, offer letter, work agreement, etc.), the document will meet the requirement.

Specialist Support

Pre-K Specialists are available to offer support and technical assistance:

- New Teachers
- New Directors
- Daily schedule development
- GELDS, lesson planning, and WSO
- Classroom management strategies

Pre-K Specialist of the Day (404) 656-5957

If you do not know which Pre-K Specialist is assigned to your program, email prek@decal.ga.gov.

Pre-K Visits

2021 - 2022

Program and Roster Verification Visits

- Will begin after September 13th (first roster).
- Conducted virtually at this time
- Visits will be scheduled for a mutually agreed upon time and day.
- Providers will be contacted by their assigned Pre-K Specialist to:
  - Schedule the visit
  - Discuss information required for the visit
  - Provide a list of any documents that should be uploaded to PANDA or emailed to the specialist prior to the visit

Inclusion and Behavior Support

Call the Helpline anytime you:

- Need assistance with addressing challenging behavior
- Need information about child referrals
- Have questions about coaching support regarding classroom practices related to SED or Inclusion
- Are interested in training on inclusion or social emotional training

1.833.354.HELP

GEORGIA SEEDS for SUCCESS

A listening ear from birth to thrive

inclusion@decal.ga.gov

Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START

GEORGIA SEEDS FOR SUCCESS
Social-Emotional Early Development Strategies

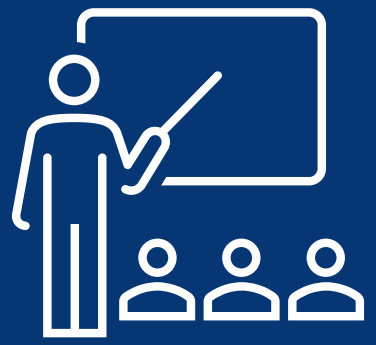
GEORGIA SEEDS FOR SUCCESS

Social-Emotional Early Development Strategies

Inclusion and Behavior Support Outreach Campaign

- “Planting the SEED for a Successful New School Year”
- Behavior Tip Tuesdays
- Teacher Testimonials and Specialist Spotlights
- Resources – SEEDS Quick Tips, Inclusive Practice Tips and more
- Social emotional contest and provider prizes!

Pre-K Training



- Annual training is required for lead teachers, assistant teachers, and NEW directors.

- New teachers will need to register for Virtual Live sessions this fall (2 days).
  - Virtual live means that teachers must participate in-person during the session.

- Returning teachers have several options:
  - Virtual live
  - Self-paced online
  - Face to face (after January)

- New directors will register for virtual live or self-paced sessions.

Teacher Training

2021 - 2022

- The Pre-K Teacher Training Guide is posted.
  - New Teacher Training (2 days)
    - Virtual **live** trainings
  - Returning Teachers (1 day) can choose from:
    - Virtual **live** training
    - Self-paced training
    - Face to face training (beginning in January)
- Training registration is now open.

New Director Training

2021 - 2022

New Director training offered by virtual live sessions or self-paced sessions.

- **Training Registration is now open for Pre-K Basics:** This training will focus on the *Pre-K Providers' Operating Guidelines and is required for new project directors and optional for site directors.*
  - *Register for one session only*
    - *Live webinars on September 1 and September 2*
    - *Online Self-Paced*
- **2020-2021 Georgia's Pre-K Year End Reconciliation Report:** The webinar recording from the August 11th reconciliation report training is posted on the Project Directors' webpage under the *Webinars/Presentation Slides* tab.

Resources

Teacher Resources

2021 - 2022

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
Families
FAQ
GA's Pre-K At Home

RESOURCES FOR THE GEORGIA'S PRE-K 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

+ General Information

+ Pre-K Instructional Models

+ Schedule and Lesson Plan Templates

+ Virtual Learning Resources

+ Social and Emotional Tools

+ Family Engagement and Resources

Resource List | Lead Teacher Credential/Salary | Assistant Teacher Credential/Salary | Webinar

Resources for Returning to School

2021 - 2022

[Molly Wright: How every child can thrive by five | TED Talk]

DECAL Download
New Episodes Every Wednesday!

Podcast: Planting SEEDS for a Successful School Year: https://decaldownload.buzzsprout.com

THE source for Learning

Document: *COVID-19: Support for Early Childhood Educators*

• October 4 – 8 VIRTUAL Celebration!

- Video recordings of legislators and community leaders reading a book will be posted in a video library and made available on the Voices for Georgia's Children website.
- A daily activity for children and families will be featured on the Voices website.
- Pre-K Specialists will contact programs to schedule virtual visits to read to classes.
- Invite your local leaders and community "heroes" to post a video recording of themselves reading a book for your social media platforms.

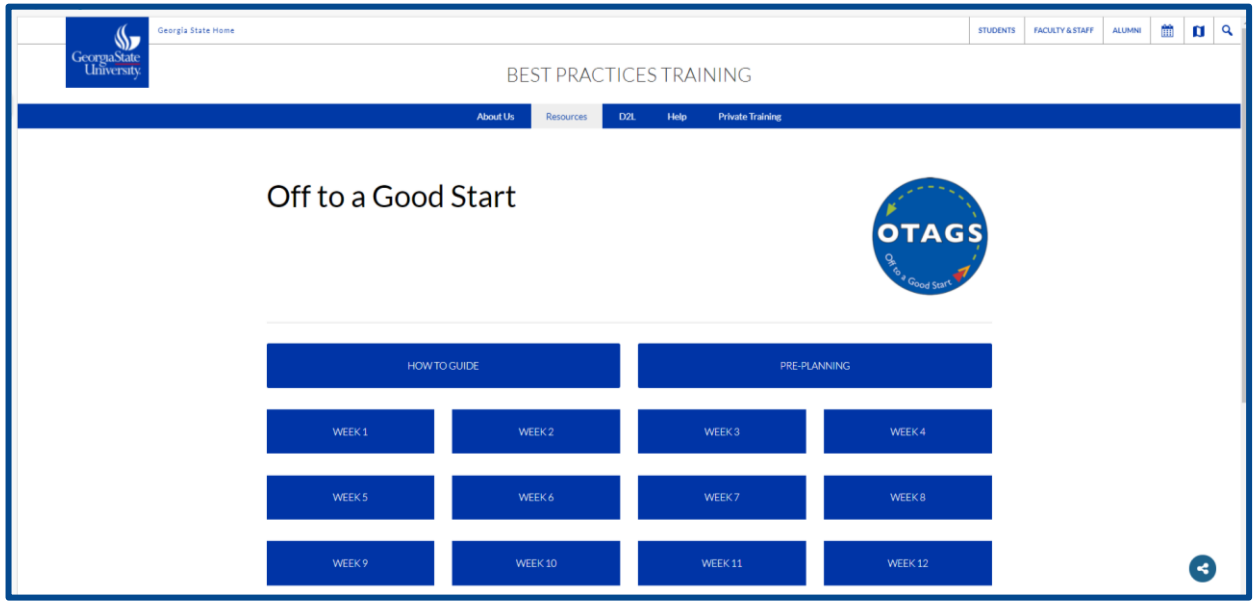
Stay tuned for additional info and steps for registering your program for Georgia's Pre-K Week!

Off to a Good Start Lesson Plans (OTAGS)

2021 - 2022

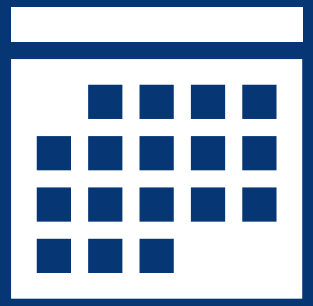
- **OTAGS**
  - 12 weeks of comprehensive lesson plans in a digital format.
  - Includes links to podcasts, songs, books, and resources teachers may download and use to supplement classroom materials.
  - Teachers can customize the plans and arrange the slides according to their daily schedule.

https://bestpractices.gsu.edu/resources/otags/
http://decal.ga.gov/PreK/Teachers.aspx



- **Pre-Planning**
  - Links to podcasts to help teachers prepare for the school year.
  - Virtual classroom link helps teachers create a supportive classroom environment.

Important Dates



August 30: Reconciliation Report due for private providers

September 3: Roster Count Date

September 13: Roster Due Date

September 30: Reconciliation Report due for school systems

Questions

Email

prek@decal.ga.gov