



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Reg Griffin

404-656-0239

reg.griffin@dec.al.ga.gov



Pre-K Summer Transition Program Offered Again in 2026

ATLANTA, Ga., (January 30, 2026) – The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) will again offer a summer transition program for rising kindergarteners in summer 2026. Enrollment is prioritized for students who:

- Did not attend a Georgia’s Pre-K Program or Head Start program during the 2025-2026 school year
OR
- Did not attend for a Georgia’s Pre-K or Head Start program for the full school year
OR
- Any student may also be eligible for attendance by meeting one of the following priority groups:
 - Child identified as needing additional academic support by their teacher or other data
 - Dual language learner (Home language is a language other than English)
 - Foster care placement
 - Child’s family is without permanent housing (homeless as defined by McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act)
 - Child with an Individual Education Program (IEP)

“Georgia’s Pre-K Program helps prepare four-year-olds academically and socially for kindergarten,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs, “but some children did not attend Georgia Pre-K or they attended Pre-K but need additional support before entering kindergarten. DECAL created the Summer Transition Program (STP) to help these students.”

“The Summer Transition Program is a great opportunity for these young students to build their skills and confidence before moving into kindergarten,” added Susan Adams, Deputy Commissioner for Georgia’s Pre-K Program and Instructional Supports. Adams said the program will begin in early June.

Child care programs that have a status of compliance and/or good standing with DECAL programs (Pre-K, Child Care Services, Nutrition Services, Audits and Compliance, and Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)) are eligible to offer a Summer Transition Program.

Providers are chosen to participate through a competitive application process. Applications are available to providers beginning today with a submission deadline of close of business **February 20, 2026**.

Locations chosen to provide the STP will be announced in April. After classes are awarded, a list of STP providers will be posted to www.dec.al.ga.gov, and parents can register their children directly with the programs.

Summer 2026 will be the 16th year DECAL has offered the STP. According to independent researchers who have evaluated the STP, the program has significantly impacted the children served, especially in their crucial language and literacy skills.

For more information about the Summer Transition Program, visit the DECAL website at <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/Prek/SummerTransitionProgram.aspx> or email questions about the program to summerschool@dec.al.ga.gov.

About Bright from the Start

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia’s Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia’s Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages *Quality Rated*, Georgia’s community powered child care rating system.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.al.ga.gov.