



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

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pre-K Summer Transition Program Offered Again in 2022

*Program supports students who did not attend Georgia Pre-K or Head Start
or who need additional help before entering kindergarten*

ATLANTA, Ga., (February 21, 2022) – The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is offering a six-week intensive academic program again this summer for rising kindergarteners who meet the following criteria:

- Child did not attend a Georgia’s Pre-K Program or Head Start program during the 2021 – 2022 school year **OR**
- Child attended a Georgia’s Pre-K or Head Start program but did not attend the entire school year **OR**
- Child attended a Georgia’s Pre-K or Head Start program the entire school year and falls into one of the priority groups listed below:
 - Child identified as needing additional academic support by their teacher
 - 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)

“The goal of Georgia’s Pre-K Program is to help ensure Georgia’s four year olds are prepared academically and socially as they continue formal education,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “We created the Summer Transition Program (STP) to support students who did not attend Georgia Pre-K or Head Start or who need additional help before entering kindergarten.”

“The Summer Transition Program is a wonderful opportunity for students who weren’t able to benefit from Pre-K or Head Start to build their skills and confidence before moving into kindergarten,” added Susan Adams, Deputy Commissioner for Georgia’s Pre-K Program and Instructional Supports. “The program is also an opportunity to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic by providing an in-person school experience prior to kindergarten. In 2021, additional classrooms were offered to help prepare over 4,000 students for kindergarten, which was a 110% increase from the Summer of 2020.” Adams said the program will begin in early June.

Programs who are interested in applying to offer a Summer Transition Program must be current Georgia’s Pre-K providers with DECAL. Programs must also have a status of compliance and/or good standing with DECAL programs (Pre-K, Child Care Services, Nutrition Services, Audits and Compliance, and Child and Parent Services (CAPS) to be eligible. Completed applications must be submitted in PANDA before close of business **March 11, 2022**.

Locations chosen to provide the STP will be announced in April, after which a list of STP providers will be posted to www.decal.ga.gov. Parents who are interested in participating can then register their children directly with the programs.

Summer 2022 will be the twelfth 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 <http://www.decal.ga.gov/Prek/SummerTransitionProgram.aspx> or email questions about the program to summerschool@decal.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.