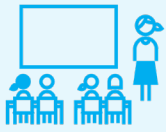


Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) offers two **intensive five-week academic programs** to support children and prepare them for kindergarten and pre-k.

Rising Kindergarten Summer Transition Program



2022-2023
Participation¹

3,838 students

324 classes

Operating in **62** counties in **239** locations

33% are located public school systems

67% are located private centers

Who is eligible?²

To participate, a child must be age eligible to attend kindergarten in the upcoming school year and must meet one of the following requirements:

1. Child did not attend a Georgia's Pre-K or Head Start program during the 2021-2022 school year, **OR**
2. Child attended a Georgia's Pre-K or Head Start program, but did not attend the entire school year, **OR**
3. Child attended a Georgia's Pre-K or Head Start program the entire school year and falls into one of the following priority groups:
 - Child identified as needing additional academic support
 - 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 has an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Program Structure³



Maximum of 14 kids per classroom



Full day program



A lead and assistant teacher per class, a ratio of 1 adult to 7 students



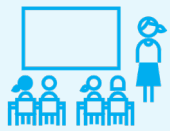
Assists in coordinating care before and after school as needed through the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program

Transition Coach⁴

The summer transition programs require a half-time transition coach for every class. These coaches are responsible for:

- Identifying students who would benefit from the program and meet the enrollment requirements
- Working with families to obtain required screenings and collect eligibility documentation
- Facilitating at least one family or parent workshop or engagement activity per week on parents' needs
- Connecting families with community resources
- Planning kindergarten transition activities

Rising Pre-Kindergarten Summer Transition Program



2022-2023

Participation⁵

780 students

71 classes

Operating in **22** counties at **56** locations

25% are located public school systems

75% are located private centers

Who is eligible?⁶

1. A child who is registered to attend Georgia's Pre-K Program or Head Start Program in the 2023-2024 school year, **AND**
2. Child's home language is Spanish

Dual Language Learners

An estimated **24%** of Georgia's children ages 0 to 5 are Dual Language Learners (DLLs), with the vast majority speaking Spanish.²

Research from the Frank Porter Child Development Institute indicated that:

1. Spanish-speaking DLLs are **less likely** than their peers to enroll in early care, directly affecting school readiness skills.
2. Both the English and Spanish language skills of participating children **increased** during the program.
3. The program helped children become **more comfortable** with school routines and **increased** independence.
4. While children made significant gains, **a meaningful gap** remained between DLLs and their peers.

Program Structure⁷



Maximum of 12 kids per classroom



A lead and assistant teacher per class, a ratio of 1 adult to 6 students



Instruction is provided in both English and Spanish



Teacher trained to work with Dual Language Learners



At least one teacher AND the transition coach must be bilingual and biliterate in English and Spanish

In 2023, the Rising Kindergarten and Pre-K Summer Transition Programs combined hosted:

4,618 children at **295** locations

The total budget* for both Summer Transition Programs is \$10.8 million.

That's approximately **\$2,338** being spent per child.⁸



References for Summer Transition Program

Suggested citation: Voices for Georgia's Children. (2023). Fact Sheet: Summer Transition Program. Voices for Georgia's Children. <https://adobe.ly/41ezWpj>.

- 1 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, professional communication, November 2023.
- 2 Department of Early Care and Learning. "Summer Transition Program – Rising Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions". Accessed November 27, 2023. https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/STP_FAQ.pdf.
- 3 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. "Summer Transition Program 2023 Operating Guidelines." Accessed November 27, 2023. <https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/STPGuidelines.pdf>.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, professional communication, November 2023.
- 6 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. "Summer Transition Program - Rising Pre-K Frequently Asked Questions." Accessed November 27, 2023. https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/STP_PK_FAQ.pdf.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, professional communication, November 2023
- 9 Migration Policy Institute. "Georgia's Dual Language Learners: Key Characteristics and Considerations for Early Childhood Programs". Accessed November 27, 2023. https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi-nciip_dll-fact-sheet2022_ga-final.pdf.