

SCHOOL READINESS IN GEORGIA

Children entering kindergarten with school readiness skills are more likely to experience academic success and better lifetime well-being than their peers.¹ Cognitive abilities alone are not sufficient for a child to be considered ready for school.

What does school readiness look like?²



Early identification and appropriate care for potential physical or mental disabilities



Evident early literacy and language skills



Emerging social and interpersonal skills



Possession of a general knowledge about the world



Demonstrated enthusiasm, curiosity, and persistence in learning



Awareness of feelings of both self and others

School readiness can be influenced by a child's development, family, community, schools, and the services to which they have access. Multiple studies of pre-k have shown that participation in high-quality pre-k can greatly improve school readiness skills and can offset some challenges children may face.³

Georgia's Commitment to School Readiness

Georgia Pre-K and the Summer Transition Program, offered by Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), help children build the skills they need to start kindergarten ready to learn.

Georgia Pre-K

MORE THAN 2 MILLION

students have been served by Georgia Pre-K since 1992.⁴

Outcomes for Georgia Pre-K Students:

Children in Georgia Pre-K showed significant growth in all areas of learning, including:⁵



Math



Language and literacy



Relationships and feelings

Evaluations have found children enrolled in Georgia Pre-K:⁷



Are more prepared for kindergarten compared to four-year-olds in other forms of care



Have increased cognitive development and improved educational outcomes in later grades.

A key strength of Georgia Pre-K is building foundational literacy skills for reading.⁶

Dual language learners showed growth across all skills in English and most skills in Spanish.⁸

Summer Transition Program

The Rising Kindergarten and Rising Pre-K Summer Transition Programs are offered by DECAL as additional supports for students who may need them (e.g., children identified by teacher as needing additional academic support, dual language learners, etc.).⁹

2025 Reach:

395 classes at 308 locations¹⁰

See Voices' [Georgia Pre-K Program](#) and [Summer Transition Program](#) factsheets for more details.





REFERENCES FOR SCHOOL READINESS IN GEORGIA

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