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. 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



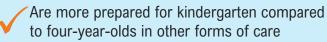
Language and literacy

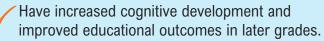


Relationships and feelings

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

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





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 then (e.g., children identified by teacher as needing additional academic support, dual language learners, etc.).

2025 Reach:

395 classes at 308 locations 10

See Voices' Georgia Pre-K Program and Summer Transition Program factsheets for more details.







REFERENCES FOR SCHOOL READINESS IN GEORGIA

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- 10 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, professional communication, July 2023.

