

# 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.

## What is School Readiness

A child's readiness for school includes:



Detection and appropriate care for potential physical or mental disabilities



Emerging social and interpersonal skills



Evident early literacy and language skills



Possession of a general knowledge about the world

**School readiness is influenced by a child's development, their family, community, and schools, and the services they receive.** Children from low income families, whose parents did not graduate high school, or do not speak English at home are less likely to have readiness skills. Multiple studies of Pre-K programs, including Georgia's Pre-K, show that participation in Pre-K can greatly improve school readiness skills, particularly in high-risk populations.<sup>1</sup>

## Georgia's Commitment to School Readiness

The following programs run through Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) are two of several programs Georgia has to increase early readiness skills so its students can enter Kindergarten prepared to learn.

### Georgia's Pre-K Program

Approximately **1.6 million** Georgia students have been served by Georgia's Pre-K since it began in 1992.

Evaluations have found that children enrolled in the Georgia Pre-K Program<sup>2</sup>:

- ✓ **Are more prepared for Kindergarten** compared to four-year-olds in other forms of care
- ✓ Have **increased cognitive development** in later grades
- ✓ Have **improved educational outcomes** in later grades



Children in Georgia's Pre-K showed significant growth across all learning domains including:



**Math Skills**



**Language & Literacy Skills**



**Social-emotional Skills**

### Summer Transition Programs

DECAL offers both the Rising Kindergarten and Rising Pre-K Summer Transition Programs as additional supports for high risk children including:

**223** classes **at** **175** program sites

### Fast Facts



**6 week,** intensive summer program



**Low student-to-teacher ratio**



**A transition coach** in each class to help families



Child's family must be **at or below 85% of the state median income**

For more information about Voices for Georgia's Children, go to [www.georgiavoices.org/a-solid-start/](http://www.georgiavoices.org/a-solid-start/).

Sources: <https://tinyurl.com/y4g634aq>