

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.¹

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 Program²:

- ✓ **Are more prepared for Kindergarten** compared to four-year-olds in other forms of care
- ✓ **Earn higher grades** and retain more of what they learn
- ✓ Spanish speaking children showed **growth in both English and Spanish**



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:

208 classes **at** **146** 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/earlyed.

¹⁻² <http://fpg.unc.edu/sites/fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/reports-and-policy-briefs/GAPreKEval2011-2012Report.pdf>