

Georgia's Pre-K: Midpoint in Early Learning



Georgia's Pre-K Program is a voluntary, free program available to all of Georgia's four-year-olds regardless of parental income. Approximately **1.6 million Georgia students** have been served by Georgia's Pre-K since it began in **1992**. The program continues to be nationally recognized for its success.

80,493 kids

enrolled in Georgia's Pre-K in the 2018-19 school year.

Representing



of all four-year-olds in Georgia.

Georgia's Pre-K operates in all of the state's

159 counties in **1,871 locations**

which operate

3,860 Pre-K Classes

Approximately



are located in a public school system



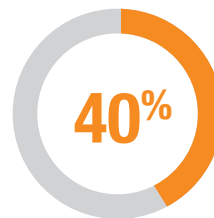
are located in private centers

1% – other (technical colleges and university systems)



Georgia is one of only nine states and D.C. that provides high-quality care to more than **50% of 4-year-olds**.

Demand is Still High



of Georgia's 4-year-olds are *not* currently enrolled. Some receive supplemental forms of care, while others receive no care at all.

At the end of the 2018-19 school year, there still were **4,602 kids on the waitlist**.

Georgia's Pre-K Improves Outcomes

In 2011, the Georgia General Assembly began a multi-year evaluation led by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute. So far, the study has found that children enrolled in the Georgia Pre-K Program:

- ✓ **Make greater growth** than expected for typical developmental growth
- ✓ **Sustain gains made in Pre-K** through kindergarten and first grade



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



Math Skills



Language & Literacy Skills



Social-emotional Skills

These gains happened for all students, regardless of gender and income differences and are sustained through the end of first grade.

About Georgia's Pre-K



Administered by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning



Full day program

Maximum of
22
kids per class



Operates 180 days a year



Required to use the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS)



Hearing, vision, and dental screenings are required



Required to have a lead teacher and assistant teacher



All Pre-K lead and assistant teachers must meet credential requirements



659 of the Pre-K centers are Quality Rated, a voluntary, quality rating system for early and child care centers.

Funding Georgia's Pre-K

\$367
MILLION

GA Lottery dollars were allocated to Georgia's Pre-K in 2019

For the 80,493 children enrolled in the 2018-19 school year



\$4,369



was spent per child

In 2016, the Georgia General Assembly approved a \$34 million increase for Pre-K salaries. Despite recent increases, Pre-K teacher salaries are lower than similar professions. Assistant teachers make \$15,873/year. The average salary for lead teachers for the 2018 school year was:

4-yr Degree

\$31,638

4-yr Degree & Certified

\$40,338

Masters Degree

\$44,338

In comparison, the average wage for **kindergarten teachers** in Georgia is:

\$54,080



Research shows a significant factor in an early childhood teacher's decision to leave the profession is **low pay**.



High turnover rates have been linked to lower program quality and shown to negatively impact a child's social and emotional development and relationships between teachers, children, and parents.