

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, 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.

Georgia's Commitment to School Readiness

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) runs several programs to increase early readiness skills so students can enter Kindergarten ready to learn, including:

Georgia's Pre-K Program

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

Evaluations have found that children enrolled in the Georgia Pre-K program:



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

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



Math Skills



Language & Literacy Skills



Social-Emotional Skills



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



Low student-to-teacher ratio

Summer Transition Programs

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

208
classes

at

146
program sites

Fast Facts



6 week,
intensive
summer
program



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