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

**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
- A transition coach in each class to help families
- Low student-to-teacher ratio

Sources: https://tinyurl.com/Readiness2019

Rev. 12/2019