Georgia’s Summer Transition Program is an intensive six-week academic program to support high risk children to prepare them for Pre-K and Kindergarten.

Rising Kindergarten Summer Transition Program

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) offers the Rising Kindergarten Summer Transition Program to children registered to enter Kindergarten in the following.

Eligible children:
1. Did not participate in Georgia’s Pre-K Program or Head Start during the previous school year, and/or,
2. Need additional help in preparing for Kindergarten, and,
3. Whose family is at or below 85% of the state median income

The Rising K Summer Transition Program serves up to:
- 2,496 children
- at 123 locations
- in 53 counties
- which operate 156 classes

- 30% are located in a public school system
- & 70% are located in private centers

Rising K Program has:
- Maximum of 16 kids per classroom
- Full day program operating for six weeks

Transition Coach

A notable difference between Georgia’s Pre-K Program and the Summer Transition Program is the requirement of a half-time transition coach for every class. The transition coach is responsible for:

- Actively seeking out students who would benefit from the program and meet the enrollment requirements
- Working with families to collect eligibility documentation
- Facilitating at least one family or parent engagement activity per week based on parents’ needs
- Connecting families with community resources
- Planning kindergarten transition activities

www.georgiavoices.org
Research from the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute indicated that:

Spanish-speaking DLLs are less likely than their peers to enroll in early care, directly affecting school readiness skills. Both the English and Spanish language skills of participating children increased during the program. The program helped children become more comfortable with school routines and increased independence. While children made significant gains, a meaningful gap remained between DLLs and their peers.

The Rising Pre-K Summer Transition Program serves up to:
- 924 children
- at 51 locations
- in 21 counties
- which operate 66 classes
- 22% are located in a public school system
- & 78% are located in private centers

Although similar to the Rising K program, the Rising Pre-K program differs in the following ways:

1. Maximum of 14 kids per classroom
2. Teacher training to work with Dual Language Learners (DLL)
3. Both English and Spanish are used for instruction and behavior management
4. At least one teacher AND the transition coach must be fluent in Spanish

An estimated 24% of Georgia’s 3 & 4 year olds are DLLs, with the vast majority speaking Spanish.

Combined, the Rising K and Pre-K Summer Transition Programs offered:
- 222 classes at 150 program sites

The total budget* for both of the 2019 Summer Transition Programs was: $5.4 MILLION

Approximately $1,580 being spent PER CHILD

Sources: https://tinyurl.com/yb3uvoth