

Children entering kindergarten with school readiness skills are more likely to experience academic success and better lifetime well-being than their peers. Cognitive abilities alone are not sufficient for a child to be considered ready for school.

A child's readiness for school includes:2

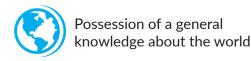


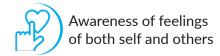
Detection and appropriate care for potential physical or mental disabilities



Evident early literacy and language skills







School readiness can be influenced by a child's development, family, community, schools, and the services to which they have access. Multiple studies of pre-k have shown that participation in pre-k can greatly improve school readiness skills and can offset some challenges children may face.

Georgia's Commitment to School Readiness

Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) administers several programs to increase early readiness skills so students can enter kindergarten better prepared to learn, including:

Georgia's Pre-K Program

MORE THAN 2 MILLION

students have been served by Georgia's Pre-K Program since it began in 1992.³

Children in Georgia's Pre-K program showed significant growth across all learning domains, including:⁵



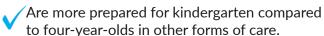
skills



Language and literacy skills



Socialemotional skills Evaluations have found that children enrolled in Georgia's Pre-K program:⁴



Have increased cognitive development and improved educational outcomes in later grades.

Dual language learners in Georgia's Pre-K program showed growth across all skills in English and most skills in Spanish.

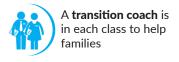
A key strength of Georgia's Pre-K Program is building foundational literacy skills for reading.⁷

Summer Transition Programs

DECAL offers both Rising Kindergarten and Rising Pre-K Summer Transition programs as additional supports for students who may need them (e.g., children identified by teacher as needing additional academic support, dual language learners, etc.)⁸, including:

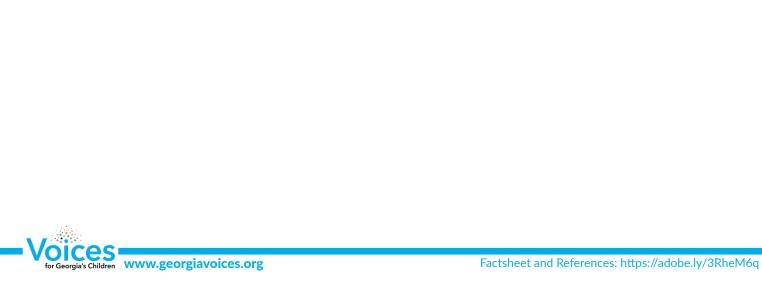
394 classes at 255 program sites?













References for School Readiness in Georgia

Suggested citation: Voices for Georgia's Children. (2023). Fact Sheet: School Readiness in Georgia. Voices for Georgia's Children. https://adobe.ly/3RheM6q.

- American Academy of Pediatrics. "School Readiness." Retrieved July 14, 2022. https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/144/2/e20191766/38558/School-Readiness?autologincheck=redirected.
- 2 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. "Georgia's Pre-K Program Content Standards." Retrieved August 2, 2023. http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/Content Standards.pdf.
- 3 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, professional communication, July 2023.
- 4 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. "Children's Outcomes and Classroom Quality from Pre-K through Kindergarten Findings from Year 2 of Georgia's Pre-K Longitudinal Study." Retrieved July 14, 2022. https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/GAPreKEvalLongitudinalYr2ExSum.pdf.
- Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. "Longitudinal Study of Georgia's Pre-K Program Final Report: Pre-K Through 4th Grade." Retrieved August 2, 2023. https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/GAPreKEvalLongitudinal4thgradeReport.pdf.
- 6 Ibid.
- Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. "Longitudinal Study or Georgia's Pre-K Program: Pre-K Through 4th Grade." Retrieved August 2, 2023. https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/GAPreKEvalLongitudinal4thGradeExSum.pdf.
- 8 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. "Summer Transition Program –Rising Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions." Retrieved August 10, 2023. https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/STP_FAQ.pdf.
- 9 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, professional communication, July 2023.