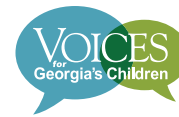


Georgia's Pre-K: Midpoint in Early Learning



Georgia's Pre-K Program is a voluntary, free program available to all of Georgia's four-year-olds regardless of parental income. More than **1.4 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.

80,430 kids

enrolled in Georgia's Pre-K
in the 2015 school year.

Representing



of all
four-year-olds
in Georgia.

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

159 counties **in** **1,819** locations

which operate

3,828 Pre-K Classes

— Approximately —



47%

are located in a
public school system



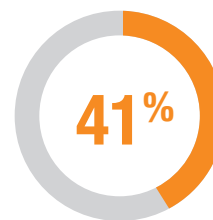
53%

are located in
private centers



Georgia is one of only seven
states and D.C. that provide
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 2016 school year, there still were
4,663 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:

- ✓ **Are more prepared for Kindergarten** compared to four-year-olds in other forms of care
- ✓ **Earn higher grades** and retain more of what they learn
- ✓ Spanish speaking children showed **growth in both English and Spanish**

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.

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.



449 of the **1,819** centers are Quality Rated, a voluntary, quality rating system for early and child care centers.

Funding Georgia's Pre-K

\$312
MILLION

GA Lottery dollars were allocated to Georgia's Pre-K in 2015

For the 80,430 children enrolled in the 2015 school year



\$3,880



was spent per child

Although this has increased in recent years after decreasing during the recession, **this is \$1,787 less than spending per child in Georgia's Pre-K in 2002.***

*Adjusted for inflation; NIEER State of Preschool 2015.

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 \$15,562/year. The salary for lead teachers for the 2017 school year range from:

2-yr Degree

\$21,000

4-yr Degree

\$26,000

4-yr Degree & Certified

\$35,000

Masters Degree

\$39,500

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

\$53,770



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.



For more information visit our website: www.georgiavoices.org/earlyed