

Georgia's Pre-K Programs

Holly A. Robinson, Ed. D.
Commissioner

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

National Conference of State Legislatures
December 10-11, 2008





Pre-K Program Essentials-Overview

- **Georgia's Pre-K Program was established in 1993**
- **Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education Act**
- **More than 860,000 Pre-K children served since 1993**
- **2008-2009 School year: 79,000 Pre-K slots**
- **Comprehensive classroom standards**
- **On-site program monitoring/technical assistance**
- **Instructional and financial accountability**
- **Family Support Program through Resource Coordination Grant**



Pre-K Program Essentials-Overview

- **Voluntary Universal Program**
 - Children must live in Georgia and be age eligible
 - No income requirement
 - 56% of Georgia's four year olds served
- **Public/Private Partnership**
 - Operates in both Public and Private sites
 - 59.26% Private
 - 39.34% LSS
 - 1.36% Other (Military, Charter, Technical Schools, Vocational Education, Refugee Centers, University Lab Schools)

Pre-K Program Essentials-Overview



- **Full Year/Full Day Program**
 - **180 days per year (36 weeks)**
 - **Five days per week**
 - **6.5 hours per day**
- **Credentialed Teaching Staff**
 - **Lead Teachers credential requirements**
 - **Certified / Bachelor's degree in Elementary or Early Childhood (79.85%)**
 - **Associate's Degree in Early Childhood (20.34%)**
 - **Assistant Teachers must meet minimum credential requirement**
 - **Child Development Associate (CDA) or equivalent**



Pre-K Program Essentials-Overview

Funding for 2008-2009 school year:

- Total Slots: 79,000 (1,855 sites)
- Public (LSS) Slots: 34,020 (735 sites)
- Private Slots: 49,920 (1,094 sites)
- Other Public Slots: 840 (26 sites)

Access - Capacity



New data sources used to calculate targeted counties:

- **Fall 2007 waiting list**
- **Graduation rate**
- **Saturation rate**

Targeted counties for the 2008-2009 school year

- **DeKalb** • **Gwinnett** • **Cherokee** • **Liberty**
- **Fulton** • **Walker** • **Clarke** • **Paulding**
- **Barrow** • **Bibb** • **Franklin** • **Richmond**
- **Clayton** • **Chatham** • **Hall**
- **Cobb** • **Chattahoochee** • **Henry**



Access - Capacity

The market demand, our ability to build quality capacity and parent choices will ultimately determine the percentage of children being served in state funded Pre-K.

What Guides Us



MISSION

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning delivers exemplary early care and education programs that improve the quality of early learning experiences, increase school readiness, and improve overall school performance.

VISION

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning will increase the number of Georgia's children and families who have access to quality early care and learning programs. More of Georgia's early care and learning programs will achieve and maintain higher, measurable, research-based standards.