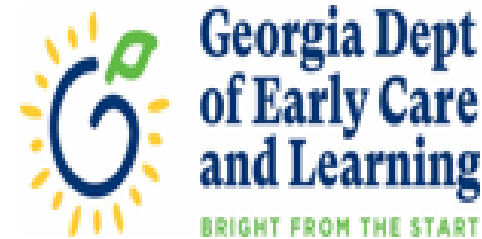
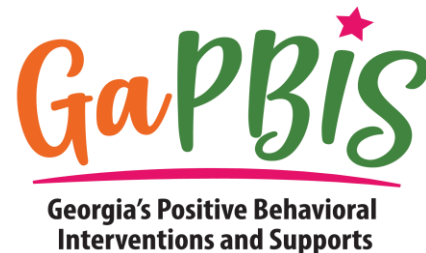


GaDOE/DECAL

**“Making School Readiness/Enrollment a Priority in Your
District and Elementary Schools”
Early Learning Webinar**

March 23, 2022

Presenters: Meghan McNail and Brandy Woolridge



Sign-In QR Code



Instructions	
Step 1:	Place your cell phone camera over the QR Code on the left.
Step 2:	Complete the sign-in information
Step 3:	Question #2- Which topic was covered? <i>Click</i> GaDOE/DECAL Early Learning Webinar Training

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Georgia Pre-K expectations and GELDS Standards
- ✓ DECAL Summer Transition Program to Kindergarten
- ✓ School enrollment data trends
- ✓ How to collect and use parent/family feedback to make informed decisions to improve school enrollment
- ✓ Messaging the importance of early childhood education
 - Families
 - Community
- ✓ Pre-K Longitudinal Study

Georgia's Pre-K Program

Georgia's Pre-K Program is a state lottery funded educational program in Georgia

- Must be four years of age by September 1st
- Must be a resident of the state
- Located in 159 counties
- Private and public settings
- Universal program

The purpose is to prepare children for success in Kindergarten and later school years.

Georgia's Pre-K Program

- Most meaningful memory of Pre-K or Kindergarten
- Teachers Focus on:
 - Building relationships
 - Helping students feel safe
 - Teaching routines, transitions, schedules
- Strong emphasis on the whole child
- Learning through play
 - Interactive centers
 - Play based interactions between teachers and students

Your Turn! 😊

- When you hear someone refer to an environment or teaching practice as “developmentally appropriate,” what does that mean to you?
- What words come to mind?



Expectations for Pre-K Teachers

Pre-K is grounded in research and DAP

Developmental differences among Pre-K students

- Take time to get to know the students and their families
- Knowing what is socially and culturally important

Individualize instruction based on the needs of the students

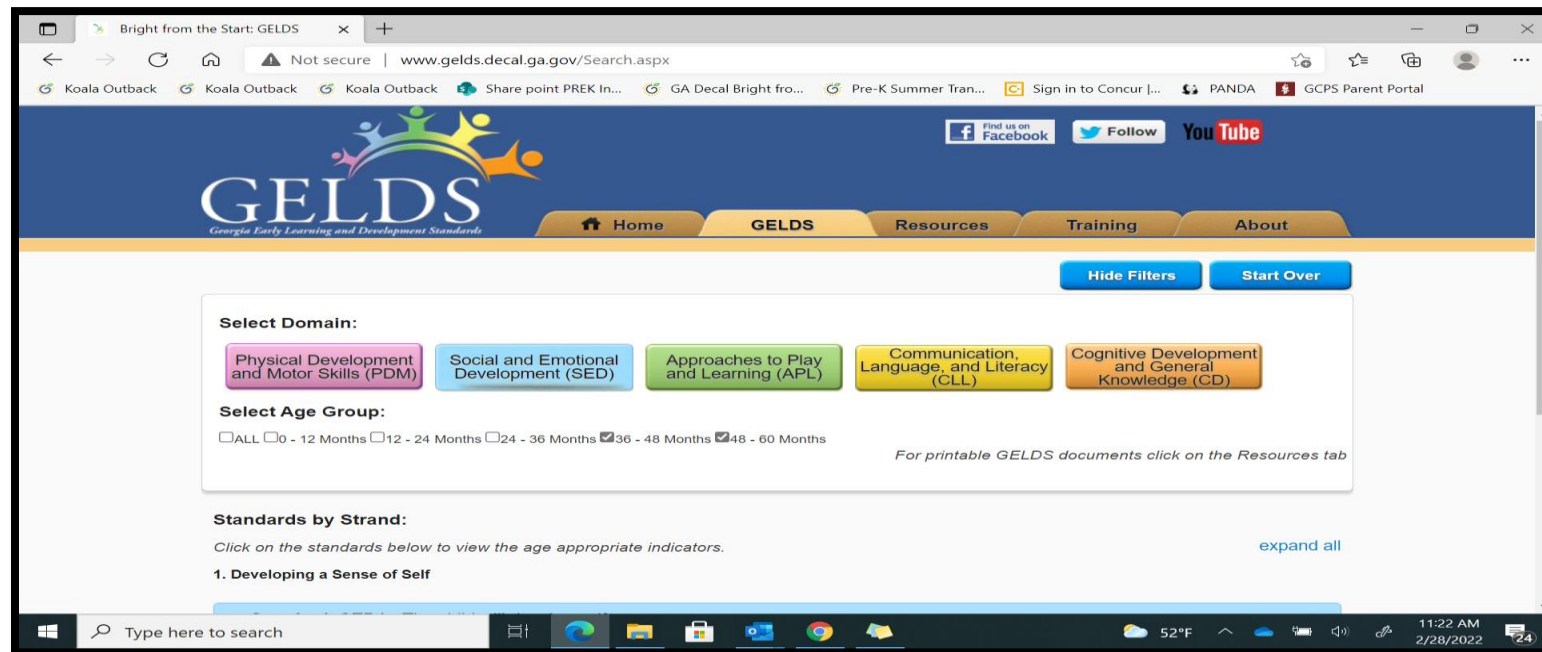
- Meet child where they are at and help them reach their goals
- Use a variety of teaching methods

Be intentional in planning

- Use assessment data to plan instruction/group children

Pre-K GELDS

- Georgia's Pre-K classrooms use the GELDS to plan instruction.
- [Bright from the Start: GELDS \(ga.gov\)](http://www.gelds.decal.ga.gov)



Bridging the Gap

- DECAL offers two Summer Transition Programs
- Six-week academic program offered in June and July

Rising Kindergarten:

- Children must be age eligible to attend kindergarten in August and a resident of the state of Georgia
- Children who can attend:
 - ✓ Did not attend a formal four-year-old setting
 - ✓ Attended part of the school year
 - ✓ Attended all year but needs additional academic support

Rising Kindergarten Classes

- Smaller class sizes
- LT and AT
- Transition coach position
 - Workshops
 - Family Engagement Activities
 - Resources in the community
 - Kindergarten transition
- Student Transition Materials
- HATCH Ignite assessment program

Rising Pre-K Classes

Preparing students for Georgia's Pre-K

- Bilingual Class
- Small class sizes
- Bilingual teacher
- Bilingual Transition Coach

Summer Transition Program

[Pre-K Summer Transition Program \(ga.gov\)](http://www.decal.ga.gov/Prek/SummerTransitionProgram.aspx)

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning website. The page title is "Pre-K Summer Transition Program". The header features the department's logo, "Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning BRIGHT FROM THE START", and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest, and LinkedIn. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main navigation menu includes "Agency", "Programs", "Families", "Teachers", "Providers", "POWER/STABLE", and "Contact". The page content is titled "PRE-K SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM" and describes the program's purpose and offerings. A sidebar on the left lists various resources, and a "Click here" button is provided for more information. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system clock as 11:27 AM on 2/28/2022.

Pre-K Summer Transition Program

Not secure | www.decal.ga.gov/Prek/SummerTransitionProgram.aspx

Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Agency Programs Families Teachers Providers POWER/STABLE Contact

/ Georgia's Pre-K / Summer Transition Program

PRE-K SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning offers two types of Summer Transition Programs which operate during the months of June and July. Each program offers high-quality instruction with a focus on language, literacy and math and are designed to reduce the achievement gap.

- Rising Pre-K – for students who are age eligible for Georgia's Pre-K in the fall (4 years of age by September 1st) and whose home language is Spanish
- Rising Kindergarten – for students who are age eligible for Kindergarten (5 years of age by September 1st) in the fall

For a list of the current Summer Transition Program locations [Click here](#)

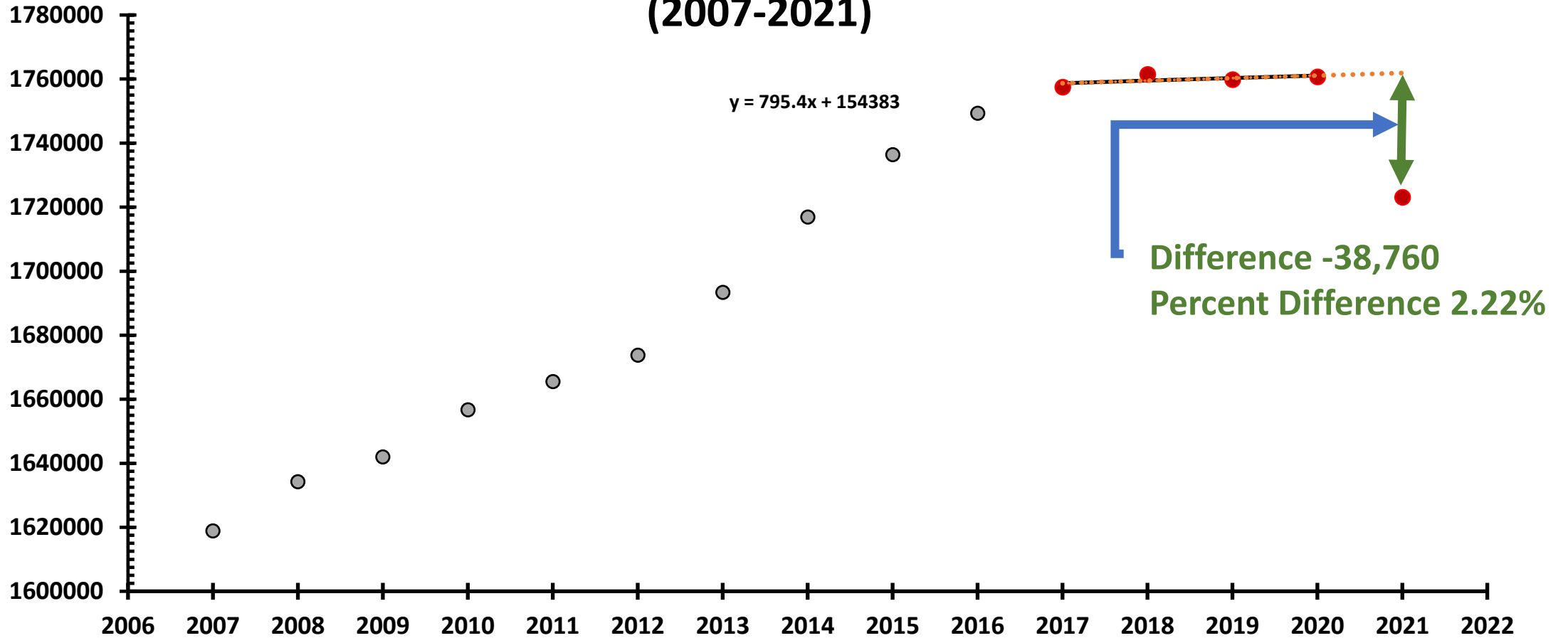
Questions or comments email: SummerSchool@decal.ga.gov

Type here to search

52°F 11:27 AM 2/28/2022

Statewide Enrollment Data: 2007-2021

Change in Georgia's Public School Student Enrollment (2007-2021)



Pre/Current COVID Enrollment Data: % Drops

Pre-K	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
-12.79%	-4.7% (-10.7% KK)	-0.77%	+2.15%**



of total unenrolled are from PK-Kindergarten

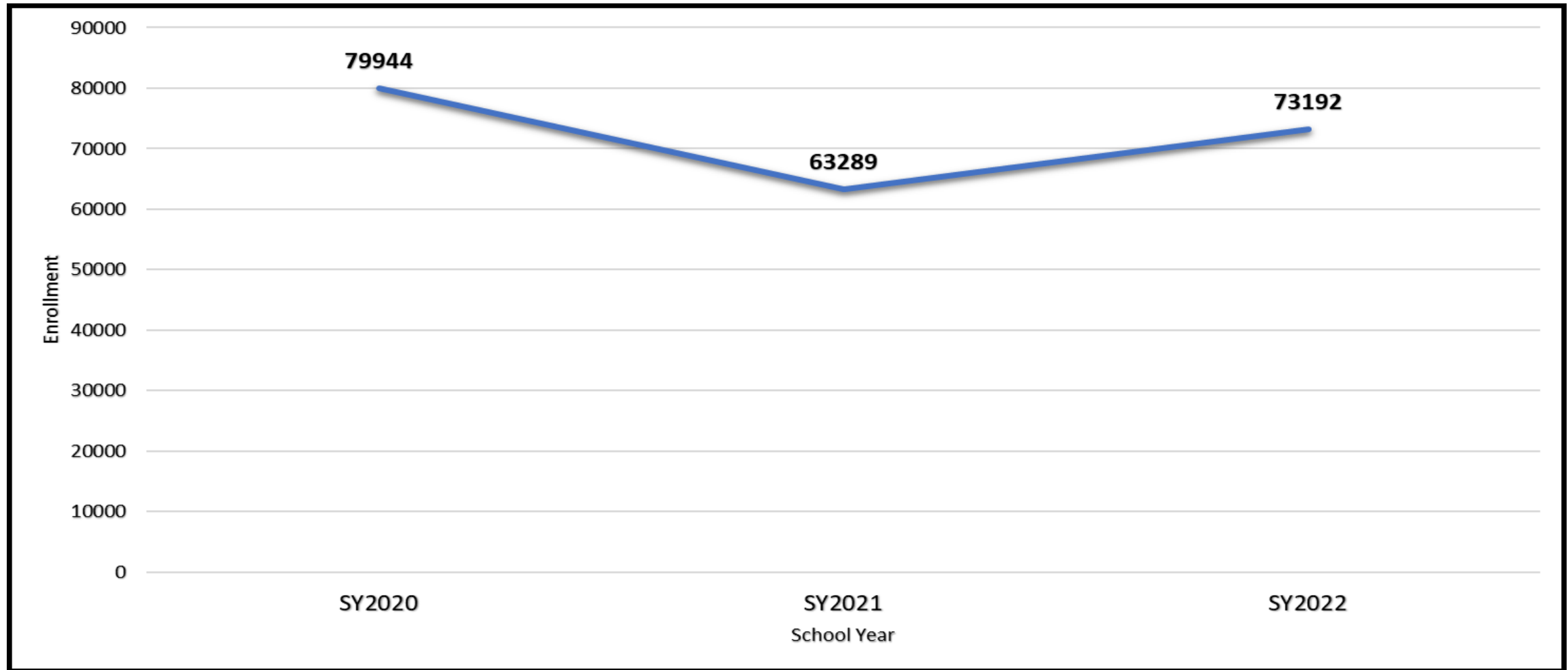
Why?

1. Many parents **likely** decided to wait a year and will put their students in Kindergarten next year. ***Especially for students who just turned 5.***
2. Families **likely** opted to home-school their children. (Numbers steady)
3. More families **likely** enrolled their kids in private schools.
4. **Online delivery of instruction deemed to be inappropriate for some parents of younger children, but reverse being true for High School.**

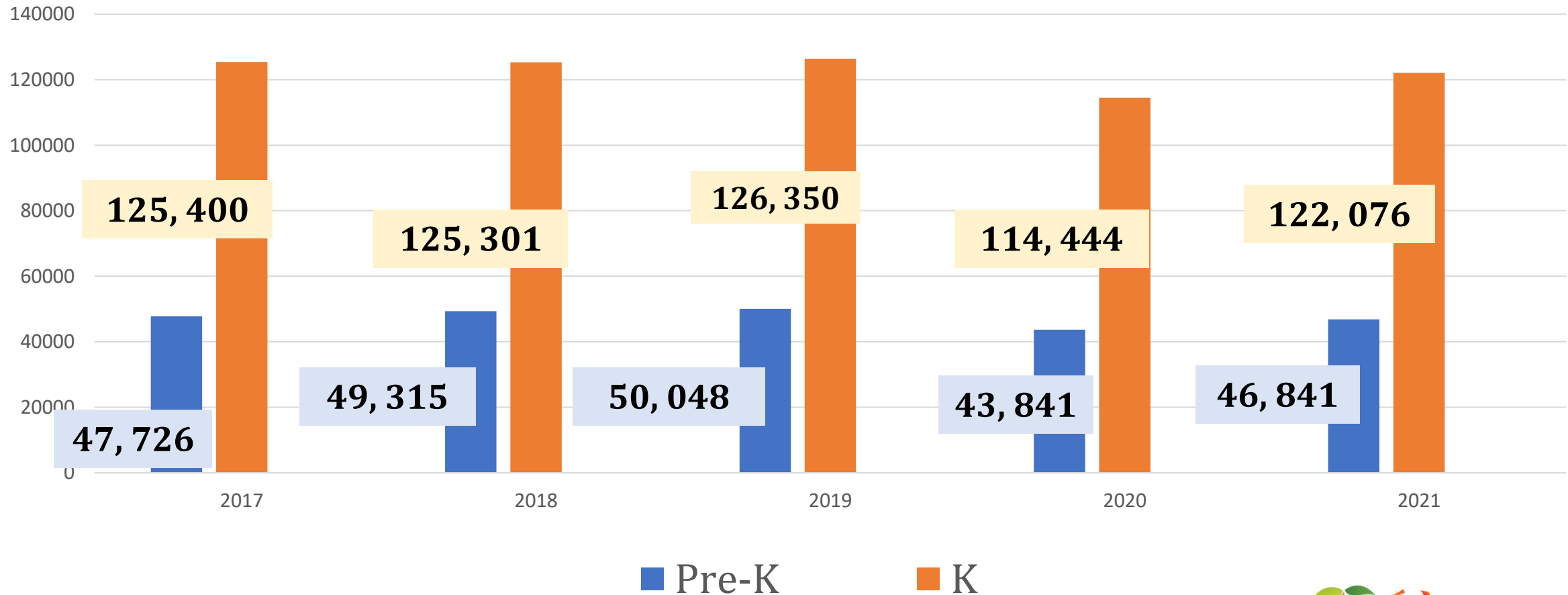
Regional Comparison

- **Virginia:** number of enrolled in K12 -**45,000**
- **Florida:** -**90,000**
- **Tennessee:** -**33,000** (*3.5% overall)

Statewide GA Pre-K Enrollment Data Trends



School Districts Pre-K and Kindergarten Enrollment Data: 2017-2021



Enrollment in Pre-K/K

Why are families choosing not to send their child to Pre-K/Kindergarten?

- Holding children back a year – the Redshirting Trend
- COVID and COVID restrictions
- Parents lost their jobs and kept children home with them
- Higher expectations for what children need to know – fearful for parents
- What their friends, neighbors are doing
- Homeschooling
- More learning options available
- Pre-K and Kindergarten not mandatory in Georgia

What strategies do you currently use to gather feedback from families?

Please type your answer in the **chat box**.

Your Turn! 😊



Feedback from Families

What can schools do to get feedback from families?

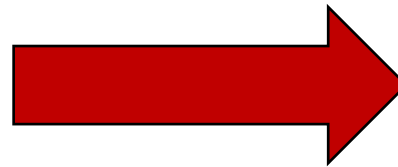
- Forums/Round tables/Surveys/Feedback pages (multiple languages)
 - Determine family priorities
- Visit communities, attend events where families gather
- Attend local childcare centers, churches, preschools, parks, places where families go
 - Conversations about what they are doing around early education, where do their young children go during the day
- Interviews with families who have chosen to keep their child at home
- Have a parent representative (bilingual) in the communities who can report back
- Exit interviews with families that choose to leave

Strategies to Improve Student Enrollment

- Use data to determine which families need more supports and targeted communications from schools
- Make early and frequent connections with families of rising Pre-K and kindergarten students (home visits, child center visits)
- Have a strong online presence to share your school's story
 - ✓ Social media, website, parent groups, billboards
- Use current families to promote your school and teachers to others
- Use an online system for registration (the easier the better)
- Kindercamps
- Have teachers share/speak at community events
- Learn how to make families feel secure, comfortable, and safe (both physically and emotionally)

Continuum of Early Childhood Education “Best Practices”

Early Learning Programs



Elementary Schools



Benefits of Early Childhood Education



Exploring
Brain
Capacity



Acquiring
Social
Skills



Understanding
the Fun of
Learning



Improving
Concentration



Investing In
Health



Adapted from Wonderschool.com

Pre-K Research Study

- In 2011, DECAL commissioned national experts at the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to conduct a series of studies to measure the impact of our state's Pre-K program.
- Research Study findings [Evaluation of Georgia's Pre-K Program \(ga.gov\)](#)

Pre-K Research Study

This study found that participation in Georgia's Pre-K Program resulted in:

- Significantly better school readiness skills across domains of learning.
- Improvements were found across a wide range of skills, including measures of language and literacy (letter knowledge, letter-word identification, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness), math (math problem-solving, counting), and general knowledge (basic self-knowledge).
- The effect sizes for these results were in the moderate to large range, suggesting that these are meaningful differences.

Pre-K Longitudinal Study

(2013-2019) Longitudinal Study. This study is designed to examine the short- and long-term learning outcomes for children who attended Georgia's Pre-K as well as the quality of their preschool and early elementary school experiences.

This study, begun in 2013-2014, involves a longitudinal design to follow a sample of 1,169 children from 199 randomly selected Pre-K classrooms through third grade.

Pre-K Longitudinal Study

This study found:

- Children showed significant growth from pre-k through kindergarten on most measures across all domains of learning.
- Children who attended Georgia's Pre-K made significant gains in the areas of language/literacy skills, math skills, self-knowledge, and social skills.
- Children's growth on most of these measures indicated that they progressed at a greater rate than would be expected for normal developmental growth.

Enrolling in Georgia's Pre-K

- Enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year
- Waiting lists
- Provide proof of age and residency
- Families can locate schools through [Find Pre-K Provider \(ga.gov\)](https://www.ga.gov/education/prek)

Early Learning School Climate and School Readiness Webpage

Early Learning School Climate and School Readiness

The GaDOE and DECAL developed PBIS Classroom Early Learning Modules for Pre-K through third grade elementary school teachers. The modules are designed to help teachers structure positive supportive learning environments by embedding early learning and social-emotional practices into Tier I PBIS systems of support. Based on the Pyramid Model framework designed for young children (The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations), these modules will equip educators in elementary environments with a toolkit of age and developmentally appropriate strategies to prevent challenging behaviors from occurring in the classroom and support the whole child.

Elementary School PBIS Sample Artifacts

- TFI Action Plan
- PBIS Behavior Flow Chart
- PBIS School-wide Behavior Expectation Matrix
- PBIS Communication Plan
- PBIS Acknowledgement System
- PBIS Lesson Plans and Teaching Schedule
- PBIS Minor and Major Behavior Definitions
- PBIS Minor Office Referral Form
- PBIS Major Office Referral Form

Elementary Schools Classroom Observation and Coaching Tools

- PBIS Classroom Observation Tool
- Aligned Early Childhood Classroom Assistance Tool
- Teacher Action Plan

Elementary Schools Systems Coaching and Fidelity Tools

- Elementary School TFI Walkthrough
- EC-BoQ Addendum Scoring Form
- EC-BoQ Addendum Scoring Rubric
- SWIS Drill Down Worksheet

Contact Information

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Please contact the PBIS Team for
more information on PBIS
Implementation gapbis@doe.k12.ga.us

Connect with GaPBIS @  

www.gadoe.org/pbis/earlylearning



Our new GaDOE
Early Learning
webpage is
available for
users to access!

GaDOE Classroom Climate and School Readiness Resources

- ❖ Georgia Home Classroom-Getting Ready Guides: <https://www.gpb.org/education/learn/lets-learn-ga/getting-ready>
- ❖ Georgia Home Classroom-Digital Learning Plans: <https://www.gpb.org/education/learn/k-12-learning-plans>
- ❖ Classroom Conversations Podcast: <https://www.gpb.org/blogs/classroom-conversations/2022/03/07/episode-109-ready-set-k-working-together-promote>

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Want to prepare for the next school year?
Keep the learning going over the summer. Below are suggestions of skills families might explore together during the school break.

Physical Health and Wellness

With parent/caregiver support...

- Identifies basic emotions by looking at others' faces and/or faces in books and television (ex. happy, mad, sad, scared)
- Identifies ways to calm when upset
- Knows how to ask a friend to play
- Is learning how to wait for a turn
- Listens quietly for 5-10 minutes during a story
- Participates and follows rules during structured (organized games) or unstructured (playground play) indoor and outdoor activities
- Understands movement concepts (how their body moves and how to move in coordination with other people or objects)
- Runs, jumps, skips, climbs and uses big muscles while playing

English Language Arts

With parent/caregiver support...

- Listens to and understands conversations
- Uses new words heard in conversations, activities, and books
- Understands and uses gestures and body language
- Speaks in complete sentences and is understood
- Understands and retells stories, events, and other learned information
- Names different sounds; rhymes; hears and names the beginning sound in a word; hears words in sentences; hears parts of words
- Begins to name upper and lowercase letters
- Draws pictures to share ideas
- Understands that letters make words and words make sentences; uses finger to track words from left to right on a page; reads symbols and words around them (ex. STOP sign, restaurant logos)

GaDOE
Georgia Department of Education

Grades K-2

Sample Learning Plan

Big Idea/ Topic "Transitions"
Standard Alignment Health Standard 5 : Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.
Instructional Design

Define Simply
Introduce students to the routine for classroom transitions. The routine needs to be adaptable to different scenarios (e.g., going to the library, moving from math to science). You can use the steps below as a guide. You can use the same prompts but substitute music, singing, call & response, chants, or [brain breaks](#) if you wish.

Steps:

- In a moment, we will be transitioning from _____ to _____
- When I say "smooth," I want you to _____
- Ready "smooth"
- Observe to ensure everyone follows the directions.

"We suggest "smooth" (likely messages calmness) as opposed to "go" (potentially messages rushing)

Model/Demonstrate with Examples
Model an example for students going through each step of the process. At the beginning of the day, identify who will be your "Transition Helper". One way to incorporate student choice is to have multiple transition routines listed on popsicle sticks and have your identified "Transition Helper" select a stick.

Practice in All Relevant Settings
Practice the transition routine for all different scenarios throughout the day. Follow the same steps so they become used to the routine.

Monitor & Provide Positive Feedback and Reinforcement
Monitor students' progress and offer group specific praise after the transition is complete. For example, "Thank you class for this smooth transition. I noticed you put your things away and joined me on the carpet quickly and quietly. Great job!"

Based on Data, Adjust Instruction & Reteach
Teachers should monitor how well the class demonstrates the transition routine and increase practice whenever necessary.

A new podcast from GPB Education and GaDOE

READY, SET, K!

Working together to promote kindergarten readiness

Featuring
Cynthia Hardegree & Barry Murphy
DeKalb County Schools

Classroom Conversations

[GaDOE School Climate and School Readiness Webpage](#)

School Readiness and Enrollment Statewide Webinar Series



**GaDOE/DECAL
Early Learning Webinar Schedule
2021/2022 School Year**



School Readiness and Enrollment Webinar Series

This webinar series will provide our state practitioners with strategies, resources, and guidance on how to improve school enrollment/preparation practices, messaging of school readiness expectations to parents, and developmentally appropriate classroom climate resources to support Pre-K and kindergarten children.

Topic	Descriptions	Date & Time	Registration Link
School Readiness and Family Resources	<i>Learn about developmentally appropriate strategies to improve school readiness preparation practices in districts and elementary schools. DECAL and GaDOE school readiness resources for families will be shared during this presentation.</i>	October 20, 2021 10:00-11:00a.m.	Webinar Registration Link: https://form.iotform.com/212635048928158
Understanding Developmentally Appropriate Learning and Behavior Expectations for PreK/Kindergarten Students	<i>Explore developmentally appropriate learning and behavior expectations to enhance practitioners' knowledge on how to support each child's optimal growth and development.</i>	November 17, 2021 10:00-11:00a.m.	Webinar Registration Link: https://form.iotform.com/212635428297159
Replacing Suspension and Expulsion with Classroom Climate Support Practices	<i>Gain knowledge of how social emotional competence among children, staff, and families can contribute to replacing school suspension/expulsion with implementation of effective classroom strategies that support the behavior needs of learners.</i>	December 15, 2021 10:00-11:00a.m.	Webinar Registration Link: https://form.iotform.com/212636025843150
Communication Strategies to Address Parents' School Readiness Concerns	<i>Learn effective strategies to address and alleviate parents' school readiness concerns. Resources will be shared.</i>	January 26, 2022 10:00-11:00a.m.	Webinar Registration Link: https://form.iotform.com/212635579136158
How to Forge Community Partnerships to Improve Georgia Pre-K and Kindergarten School Enrollment	<i>Provide guidance on how to connect and strengthen relationships with community stakeholders and bring awareness about improving school enrollment.</i>	February 16, 2022 10:00-11:00a.m.	Webinar Registration Link: https://form.iotform.com/212636460149152
Making School Readiness/Enrollment a Priority in Your District and Elementary Schools	<i>Understand developmentally appropriate expectations for school preparation and the impact of enrollment and data trends. Learn strategies on how to message the importance of early education to families and the community.</i>	March 23, 2022 10:00-11:00a.m.	Webinar Registration Link: https://form.iotform.com/212636485746162

Sign-In QR Code



Instructions	
Step 1:	Place your cell phone camera over the QR Code on the left.
Step 2:	Complete the sign-in information
Step 3:	Question #2- Which topic was covered? <i>Click</i> GaDOE/DECAL Early Learning Webinar Training

Q&A

Happy to answer your questions! 😊



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Evaluation QR Code



Thank you!

Instructions

Step 1:	Place your cell phone camera over the QR Code on the left.
Step 2:	Complete the evaluation information
Step 3:	Question #2- Which topic was covered? Click GaDOE/DECAL Early Learning Webinar Training

Presenters:
Meghan McNail and Brandy Woolridge



All kids need is a little help, a little hope
and **somebody who believes in them.**

— *Magic Johnson* —



Thank you! 😊

