

591-2-1-.01 Georgia's Pre-K Program.

(1) **General Scope and Purpose:** This program is designed to provide grant funding to licensed or government childcare centers, local school systems, and Head Start organizations. Providers are to conduct a full day (6 ½ hours of instructional services), five days per week, for 36 weeks (180 days) per year of appropriate educational/instructional services for all four-year-old children and eligible five year old children (five year old children who did not previously participate in Georgia's Pre-K Program).

(2) **General Terms and Conditions:** Contract recipients agree to use the awarded funds to provide a developmentally appropriate educational program for the children. The funds may be used to provide salaries and benefits for lead teachers, assistant teachers, resource coordinators, and limited support staff; materials and equipment to support an appropriate early education program; Category 1 eligible child and family transportation costs; staff travel to required training; and the purchase of other materials and services necessary to implement the program. Providers may also be granted funds to coordinate comprehensive services for the family.

(3) **Eligible Recipients:** Any legal educational or licensed childcare entity, such as a local school system, a public or private not-for-profit [501©(3)] agency, or a private for-profit agency. Each private site must have a room with space for a minimum of 18 children.

(4) **Application Process:** Applications are available during the annual application period and can be downloaded from the agency website (www.decal.state.ga.us). Interested entities must complete a detailed application, which includes vendor TIN verification, licensing information, description of the program curriculum choice, and assurances.

(5) **Approximate time to apply:** The annual application period generally runs from January through March, for the school year beginning the next fall. The exact due date is published each year in the Application Information Package.

(6) **Criteria for Grant Award:** Contracts are awarded to Pre-K providers through a competitive process, subject to funding availability, previous program compliance (for continuation programs), and identified regional population needs. DECAL shall contract with both public and private providers for Pre-K services. Licensed applicants must have a history of compliance with regulations.

(7) **Calculation of Payment:** Each Pre-K provider must submit detailed class rosters six times during the school year, which include teacher's name, Social Security Number and teaching credential information. The roster also includes all Pre-K students' names, Social Security Numbers, gender, race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, English language proficiency and dates of birth. The enrollment and teacher credentials reported are applied to the Pre-K rate model to determine the amount of the monthly Pre-K payment.

(8) Length of Award: Awards are valid for one school year only, and are in effect from July 1 through June 30.

(9) **Authority:** O.C.G.A. 20-1A-1; 20-1A-4; 50-27-2; 50-27-3.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 20-1A-1, 28-5-122, 50-27-2, 50-27-3. **History.** Original grant description entitled "Georgia Pre-K Program" submitted May 5, 1999. **Submitted:** Dec. 28, 2000. **Submitted:** Dec. 20, 2001. **Submitted:** Dec. 17, 2002. **Submitted:** Dec. 16, 2004. **Submitted:** Dec. 16, 2005. **Submitted:** Dec. 12, 2007. **Submitted:** Dec. 8, 2008.