



## Georgia's Pre-K Program 2023 - 2024 Provider's Operating Guidelines Updates

This document highlights program guidelines updates for the 2023 - 2024 school year. This is not a complete listing so please read the entire *2023 - 2024 School Year Pre-K Providers' Operating Guidelines* for all updates.

### **Guidance regarding class size for the 2023 – 2024 school year:**

DECAL is conducting a pilot during the 2023 – 2024 school year for reducing the Pre-K class size from 22 to 20 students. Continuation classrooms are encouraged to serve a maximum of 20 students; however, these classrooms can serve up to 22 students. New classrooms should serve a maximum of 20 students. Full funding will be provided to classrooms serving 20 -22 students. Programs should plan on a maximum class size of 20 students for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

### **Section 8.7 – Meals**

This section provides updated guidance around meal/snack fees. Meal or snack fees cannot be charged to families with a verified Category One status. Pre-K funding may be used for costs related to meals and snacks. Meal and snack fees may be charged to families with a Category Two status. **Pre-K providers can charge a maximum of \$25 per week for Pre-K lunch and snacks to families with a Category Two status. If breakfast is served during the Pre-K instructional day, then an additional weekly fee of \$10 can be charged.**

### **Section 12.7 – Lead Teacher Salary Components – Base Salary**

This section has been updated to reflect a change in the percentage amount of the salary a provider is required to pay for lead teacher salary. **Providers are now required to pay 100% of the salary funded by DECAL for lead teacher salary.**

### **Section 19.1 Program Summary Chart (2023 – 2024 Pre-K Budget)**

- The budget includes a \$2,000 increase in lead teacher and assistant teacher base salaries. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, providers are required to pay 100% of the total base lead teacher salary funded by DECAL for lead teacher salary.
- The budget includes a \$3,676.00 increase for Operating Classroom.
- The budget includes a 10.920% increase for health benefit rate. This budget increase applies only to Public School providers.