

Georgia’s Pre-K Program

Teacher of the Year 2020-2021

Application Packet



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is seeking applications for Georgia’s Pre-K Program Teacher of the Year 2020-2021. DECAL will select two teachers as winners; one teacher from a public-school system site and one teacher from a private child care center site.

To be considered for this honor, the teacher who is applying must meet the following **qualifications:**

* Must have been employed as a Georgia’s Pre-K lead teacher during the 2019-2020 school year.
* Must have taught as a lead teacher in a Georgia’s Pre-K classroom for a minimum of three years.
* Must meet Georgia’s Pre-K lead teacher credential/certification requirements and must be enrolled in the Georgia Professional Development Registry (GaPDS).
* Must be planning to continue as a lead teacher in a Georgia’s Pre-K classroom during the 2020-2021 school year.
* Must be employed by a Georgia’s Pre-K Program provider in good standing with all programs administered by DECAL. (Pre-K, Child Care Services, Childcare and Parent Services [CAPS] and Nutrition Services).
* Must be willing to serve as an ambassador for Georgia’s Pre-K Program. Duties may include but are not limited to: public speaking, representing Georgia’s Pre-K at meetings, and modeling effective classroom practices.
* Must be able and willing to travel as needed – including some overnight stays.
* Must be willing to have a classroom evaluation and interview conducted if chosen as a finalist.

**Timeline:**

February 24, 2020 Application available

March 16, 2020 Application due to DECAL

May, 2020 Top finalists announced

September, 2020 Georgia’s Pre-K Teacher of the Year winners announced

Applications submitted **must be postmarked or hand delivered** no later than **5 p.m. on March 16, 2020**. Applications **will not** be accepted with a postmark after the due date.

**Applications must be typed, not hand written**. Responses should be limited to two pages per question. Any portion of a response that exceeds the maximum length allowed will not be considered in the evaluation.

**Applications that are hand written will not be considered for review.**

Applications **will not** be accepted via email. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Scores from the application review process will not be released.

Questions regarding the application, contact Meghan McNail at [Meghan.mcnail@decal.ga.gov](mailto:Meghan.mcnail@decal.ga.gov)

**Mail or deliver completed application to:**

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Attn: Georgia’s Pre-K Teacher of the Year

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE

Suite 754, East Tower

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

**2020-2021 Georgia’s Pre-K Program Teacher of the Year**

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| --- |
| Name of Applicant: |

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| --- |
| Name of School: |
| School Address: |
| City: Zip Code: County: |
| School Phone: |
| Pre-K Project Director: |

|  |
| --- |
| Home Address: |
| City: Zip Code: County: |
| Cell Phone: Email Address: |

**Professional Preparation**: Complete the information for the appropriate degree(s).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Degree Earned** | **Field of Study** | **Institution** | **Date Degree Received** |
| Undergraduate |  |  |  |
| Masters |  |  |  |
| Specialist |  |  |  |
| Doctorate |  |  |  |

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Additional Certification (i.e., ESOL, Gifted)

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Georgia Teaching Certificate Type, Level and Field

**Professional Experience**: List the schools/early education centers where you have been employed as a Georgia’s Pre-K Program lead teacher, starting with the most recent.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **School Name** | **Start Date** | **End Date** |
|  |  |  |
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**Submit a headshot with the application**. Headshots should be in color and include the teacher only (no children and no busy background in the photo). Photo will be used only for Teacher of the Year announcements and for publicity. **Photo will not be returned to the teacher**.

FOR PRE-K PROJECT DIRECTOR: I understand that if the teacher from my school is selected as the 2020-2021 Georgia’s Pre-K Program Teacher of the Year, there will be occasions throughout the year during which he/she needs to be released from their teaching responsibilities to attend meetings, engage in public speaking, and perform other public appearance duties.

Teacher Signature Date

Pre-K Project Director Signature Date

1. **Professional Biography (20 points)**:

What factors influenced you to become a teacher?

Describe your greatest contributions to or accomplishments in education.

1. **School or Community Involvement (20 points):**

Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in. What was your role, and how did this contribute to the overall school/community culture?

1. **Professional Learning Activities (20 points):**

What professional learning activities have you been involved in since beginning your teaching career? (**Do not include the course work** you completed in earning your degree[s]) Provide information regarding professional association memberships, offices held, and other relevant activities. Cite any awards and other recognitions of your outstanding teaching.

1. **Classroom Culture (20 points):**

Describe the role of the lead teacher and assistant teacher in your classroom. What principles or strategies are used in your classroom to motivate children? How do you individualize learning in your classroom?

1. **Georgia’s Pre-K Program Teacher of the Year (20 points):**

As the DECAL Teacher of the Year, you would serve as a spokesperson and representative for Georgia’s early childhood education teaching profession. What would your message be to other education professionals, to families, and to the general public?