



Georgia's Pre-K Program 2017-2018 Providers' Operating Guidelines Updates

This document highlights program guidelines updates for the 2017-2018 school year. This is not a complete listing so please read the entire *2017-2018 School Year Pre-K Providers' Operating Guidelines* for all updates.

Salary Requirements – Section 12.3

This section includes the 2017-2018 credential/certification requirements and base salaries for Lead Teachers.

- Two Year Degree (Grandfathered Associate Degree or Montessori Diploma) – **\$21,449.86**
- Bachelor's Degree not related to Early Childhood Development - **\$27,315.60**
- Early Childhood Education or Early Childhood Education Related Degree or Higher Credential (Masters, Specialist, etc.) - **\$27,315.60**
- Four Year Degree and T4 Certification - **\$35,820.72**
- Master's Degree and T5 Certification - **\$40,343.04**

Pre-K providers are required to pay 90% of the lead teacher base salaries listed above. The minimum salary amount does not include any additional compensation or benefits the lead teacher may receive.

Certificate of Eligibility – Section 12.4

A Certificate of Eligibility is issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) and serves as evidence that a person is eligible for an educator certificate. It is not a Georgia teaching certificate. This section includes information about the Certificate of Eligibility and the process for requesting the educator certificate from the GaPSC.

Assistant Teacher Salaries – Section 13.4

Updated information regarding salaries for Assistant Teachers is included in this section. All credentials for an assistant teacher will be paid at the minimum rate of **\$15,872.89**. The minimum salary amount does not include any additional compensation or benefits the assistant teacher may receive.

Professional Development plan for Pre-K staff – Section 15.4

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, Pre-K providers will be required to develop a Professional Development Plan for their Pre-K staff. This section provides information about writing a Professional Development Plan.

Payment Advice – Section 18.6

This section is new and provides clarification on the monthly payment advice which details the Pre-K payment. The payment advice is available in PANDA. Providers should review their payment advice immediately after a Pre-K payment is processed to confirm that the payment is accurate.

Class Budget – Section 16.2

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, funding provided by Bright from the Start for lead and assistant teacher salaries and benefits will not be impacted by student enrollment. Regardless of the number of the children enrolled in the program, Bright from the Start will provide the full funding amounts reflected in sections 12.3 and 13.4 for teacher salaries.

Montessori Classroom – Section 25.0

This section is new and provides guidance to programs who have received prior approval from BFTS to operate a Montessori based Georgia's Pre-K classroom.