

2016-2017 Lead Teacher Credential/Certification Requirements

A Georgia's Pre-K Program lead teacher must have one of the following valid and current certificates or credentials listed below. Pre-K providers should review the qualifications and conditions carefully to ensure that the lead teacher qualifies to teach in Georgia's Pre-K. *The salary rates reflect 100% of the base salary funded by Bright from the Start to the provider.*

Note: Early Childhood Education (ECE)/related degrees and credentials are verified in the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS). Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) certification is verified through review of www.gapsc.com for all certified teachers.

Two Year Degree (Grandfathered Associate's Degree or Montessori Diploma)

The Associate's degree/Montessori Diploma applies only to Pre-K lead teachers who were approved in the 2009-2010 school year with an approved ECE Associate's degree or Montessori Diploma. These teachers will be considered approved as long as they continue employment as a lead teacher with the same program. If the teacher leaves the current program in which he/she is approved, he/she will be required to meet the minimum Bachelor's degree requirement in the new classroom. If the program currently approved to have an Associate's degree/Montessori Diploma teacher replaces that teacher, the minimum education requirement of a Bachelor's degree or higher credential will apply.

The followed are the only grandfathered credentials:

- Associate of Science/Arts (ECE or related)
- Associate of Applied Science/Technology (ECE or related)
- Montessori Diploma (ECE, minimum of two years coursework)

Two Year Degree Lead Teacher Salary: \$21,029.27

Bachelor's Degree not related to Early Childhood Education NEW REQUIREMENT

A teacher with a Bachelor's degree not related to Early Childhood Education must also hold one of the following approved ECE credentials:

- Associate degree with ECE major
- Montessori diploma from a Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) Program
- Technical College Diploma (TCD) with ECE major
- Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) with ECE major

Returning Pre-K Lead Teachers: DECAL will allow current 2015-2016 lead teachers who hold a verified Non-ECE degree that contains 15 semester or 25 quarter hours of accumulated ECE-related coursework to continue teaching with their current credential. Returning lead teacher must meet the new requirement for non-ECE bachelor's or have another qualifying credential by school year 2019-2020.

New Pre-K Lead Teachers: All lead teachers who are not currently teaching Pre-K and who are hired for school year 2016-2017 must meet the new requirement for non-ECE bachelor's degree listed above.

For information about possible scholarships or educational counseling, go to <http://www.decalscholars.com>

Non-ECE degrees are eligible for salary at the Four Year Degree rate: \$26,780.00

ECE or ECE-Related Bachelor's Degree - Four Year Degree or Higher Credential (Masters, Specialist's, etc.)
Early Childhood Education (P-5)
Birth Through Kindergarten (B-K)
Early Childhood Special Education General Curriculum (P-5)
Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5)
Child and Family Development
Child Development
Elementary Education
Family & Consumer Science/Home Economics (6-12)
Infant and Child Development
Special Education General Curriculum (P-12)
Special Education Adapted Curriculum (P-12)
Four Year Degree Lead Teacher Salary: \$26,780.00

T4 (Four Year Degree and Georgia teaching certificate issue by the GaPSC)	
Teaching Certificate Level 4, Certificate Type: Standard Professional (SRT), Performance Based Professional (PRT), Life Certificate (DT), Induction Pathway Certificates (INT1, INT2, INT3 and INT4), and Supplemental Induction (SIT)	
Certificate must be in one of the following Field Codes:	
PSC Certification Field Codes	
FLD808	Early Childhood Education (P-5)
FLD870	Birth Through Kindergarten (B-K)
FLD708	Early Childhood Special Education General Curriculum (P-5)
FLD799	Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5)
FLD826	Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5) Endorsement
FLD805	Special Education Adapted Curriculum (P-12) PLUS all of the Special Education Academic Content Concentrations (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Science)
FLD798	Special Education General Curriculum (P-12) PLUS all of the Special Education Academic Content Concentrations (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Science)
FLD732	Reading Specialist (P-12)
FLD885	ESOL English to Speakers of Other Languages (P-12)
Important Information:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-of-state certified at the Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education applies to one school year only. • Only the certifications in the field codes listed above qualify for certified teacher funding rates. The "Issue Date" is the beginning date of certification for Georgia's Pre-K teachers. Bright from the Start does not issue waivers for certification; therefore, teachers who have pending certification are paid at the verified credential level. 	
T4 Lead Teacher Salary: \$35,118.35	

T5 (Master's Degree and Georgia teaching certificate issue by the GaPSC)

Teaching Certificate Level 5, Certificate Type: Standard Professional (SRT), Performance Based Professional (PRT), Advanced Professional (APT), Lead Professional (LPT), Life Certificate (DT), Induction Pathway Certificates (INT1, INT2, INT3 and INT4), Supplemental Induction (SIT)

Certificate must be in one of the following Field Codes:

PSC Certification Field Codes

FLD808	Early Childhood Education (P-5)
FLD870	Birth Through Kindergarten (B-K)
FLD708	Early Childhood Special Education General Curriculum (P-5)
FLD799	Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5)
FLD826	Special Education Preschool (ages 3-5) Endorsement
FLD805	Special Education Adapted Curriculum (P-12) PLUS all of the Special Education Academic Content Concentrations (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Science)
FLD798	Special Education General Curriculum (P-12) PLUS all of the Special Education Academic Content Concentrations (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Science)
FLD732	Reading Specialist (P-12)
FLD885	ESOL English to Speakers of Other Languages (P-12)

Important Information:

- Out-of-state certified at the Master's degree level in Early Childhood Education applies to one school year only.
- Only the certifications in the field codes listed above qualify for certified teacher funding rates. The "**Issue Date**" is the beginning date of certification for Georgia's Pre-K teachers. Bright from the Start does not issue waivers for certification; therefore, teachers who have pending certification are paid at the verified credential level.
- Classes that have teachers with a GaPSC certificate issued at the **Specialists degree level (Certificate Level 6) or Doctoral degree level (Certificate Level 7)** will be funded at the T5 rate.

T5 Lead Teacher Salary \$39,552.00