

Georgia's Pre-K Program Application Webinar

April 2, 2013



Susan Adams
Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
www.dec.state.ga.us

Pre-K Application



- Annual application process
 - Renewal for continuation classes in good standing
 - Competitive process for new and expansion classes

- Application types
 - Continuation Applications
 - New Applications
 - Expansion Applications

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Continuation Applications



- Continuation programs are programs with a grant agreement for funding to operate Pre-K classes during the 2012-2013 school year.
- All grantees who are interested in continuing Pre-K services must submit the Pre-K application in PANDA by the deadline.
- Continuation programs in “good standing” for the current 2012-2013 school year will be funded for the 2013-2014 school year.

Continuation Programs



- “Good standing” is defined as a program that has:
 - Met Pre-K program requirements and are not on probation
 - Maintained full Pre-K student rosters
 - Met Pre-K reporting requirements
 - Maintained compliance with child care licensing regulations where applicable
 - Maintained compliance with Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) regulations where applicable
 - Met Child and Parent Services (CAPS) regulations where applicable
 - No unresolved audit or reconciliation issues

Continuation Programs



- Continuation providers who have one or more of the following issues will not be automatically funded:
 - Low Class Rosters
 - Probation Sites
 - Noncompliant Sites

Identifying Areas for Pre-K Expansion County Level Need



- Using the following county data points, counties that may be most in need of additional classes are identified.
 - Saturation Rate
 - Waiting Lists
 - Percent Demand Met
 - Free/Reduced Price Meal Participation Rate
 - CRCT 3rd Grade Reading Scores
 - CRCT 3rd Grade Math Scores

Identifying Areas for Pre-K Expansion



- Each county is leveled based on the selected data points:
 - Level 1 Counties
 - Applicants within these counties will be considered for funding; however, applications are not guaranteed funding.
 - Level 2 Counties
 - While not targeted for funding, consideration will be given for new or expansion classes serving children in underserved areas within a level two county and for new/expansion classes serving children with special needs and/or dual language learners.
 - Level 3 Counties
 - Applications in this level will not be reviewed or considered for funding at this time.

New Applications



- Applications from potential providers who do not currently have a grant agreement for Pre-K services.
- Application is posted on the DECAL website and must be submitted via mail.
- Applicants must submit all requested documents for application to be complete and ready for review.

New Applications



- New applicants must be in “good standing.”
Good standing is defined as a program that:
 - is in compliance with child care licensing regulations (if applicable)
 - is in compliance with Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) regulations (if applicable)
 - is in compliance with Child and Parent Services (CAPS) regulations (if applicable)
 - has no unresolved audit or reconciliation issues

Expansion Applications



- Current Pre-K grantees can request funding for expansion classrooms operating under the SAME legal ownership.
- Expansion Request Types:
 - Expansion **Class** – request for an additional class at a site that currently offers Georgia’s Pre-K Program
 - Expansion **Site** – request for a class at a site that does NOT currently offer Georgia’s Pre-K Program

Expansion Applications



- To be eligible for expansion, continuation providers must be in “good standing.”
- Expansion requests are completed in the application on PANDA.
- Applicants must submit all requested documents for application to be complete and ready for review.

Application Review Process



- Site Level Data Review
 - Licensing compliance
 - Nutrition compliance
 - CAPS compliance
- County/Zip Code Data Review
 - Pre-K standing for current providers
 - County level data
 - Zip code waiting lists

Application Review Process



- Quality of the application
 - Each applicant is reviewed by Pre-K staff
 - Application Questions
 - Focused on the need in the area for additional Pre-K slots
 - Completeness of the answers
 - Spelling and grammar count!
 - Document Review
 - Complete and correct documents submitted

Application Review Process



- Funding for new/expansion classes will be based on the available funding after continuation classes are funded.
- Applications for new/expansion classes will be carefully reviewed to determine the need for additional classes within the service area.
- Priority is not given based on application type (new or expansion).
- Funding decisions for individual applicants will be based on the quality of the application and need in the service area.

Application Timeline



- March 29th: Application posted
- April 2nd: Applicant webinar
- April 23rd: Submission date (COB)
- May 1 – May 31st: Application review
- June/July: Program notification



Questions?

Contact Information:



Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K
Susan.Adams@dec.al.ga.gov

Application Questions?
PreK@dec.al.ga.gov