Georgia’s Pre-K Program
Child Assessment and Classroom Instruction

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Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment Program - Background

• Need for improved and consistent child assessment identified – 2003-2004
• Collaborative committee reviews multiple child assessment systems – 2003-2004
  ▪ Aligned with state standards
  ▪ Embedded in a natural setting
  ▪ Provided useful information for improving classroom instruction
  ▪ Incorporated existing practices
• Work Sampling System selected – 2003-2004
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment Program - Pilot

• Georgia’s Pre-K Assessment Pilot – 2004-2005
  ▪ 500 classrooms
  ▪ Teacher training
  ▪ Ongoing classroom support – Regional Assessment Coordinators (RACs)

• Georgia’s Pre-K Assessment Pilot – 2005-2006
  ▪ Increase in participating classrooms
  ▪ Improved and expanded teacher training
  ▪ Ongoing support for classrooms and administrators – RACs
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment Program - Pilot

- **Georgia’s Pre-K Assessment – 2006-2007**
  - Statewide roll-out
    - All Pre-K teachers and assistants trained (7,600)
    - All Pre-K Project and Site Directors trained
  - Increased role for RAC’s
    - On-site consultation with teachers
    - Follow-up small group training session – spring 2007

- **Georgia’s Pre-K Assessment – 2007-2008**
  - Improved teacher training
    - Online learning modules developed by Georgia State Univ.
  - RAC’s work with new teachers and struggling sites
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment Program - Training

- **Teacher Training**
  - Online Learning Module
    - Explains basic components of Georgia’s Pre-K Assessment
    - Describes the organizational set-up for collecting child data
    - Defines assessment specific terminology
    - Prepares teacher for one-day classroom training session
  - One-day classroom training session
    - Focuses on the links between assessment, planning, and instruction
  - Advanced training 2007-2008
    - Planning meaningful instruction
    - Increased classroom application of assessment data
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment Program - Training

• Teacher Training - Three-Year Plan
  ▪ Year One: Basic Fundamentals
    • Understanding of assessment timelines
      – Preliminary ratings (every four weeks)
      – Conferences with families (twice each school year)
    • Familiarization with assessment materials
      – Omnibus
      – Developmental Guidelines
      – Developmental Checklist
      – Georgia Pre-K Progress Report
    • Organization of assessment system
      – Student files
      – Teacher file
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment Program - Training

• Teacher Training - Three-Year Plan
  ▪ Year Two: Incorporation
    • Strengthen link between assessment and classroom planning
    • Direct link between preliminary ratings and classroom activities
      – Lesson plans
      – Individualized activities
    • Higher-level training offered to support integrating assessment and instruction
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment Program - Training

• Teacher Training - Three-Year Plan
  ▪ Year Three: Seamless Practice
    • Assessment seen as a classroom tool
    • Teachers and assistants use assessment to guide classroom instruction
    • Classrooms are responsive to individual student needs
      – Individualized student activities based on need
      – Flexible grouping based on assessment data
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment Program - Family Connection

Georgia Pre-K Progress Report

- Two required conferences with families each school year
- Summarizes individual child growth and development
- Provides parents with strategies on how they can support their child’s growth
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment Program - Monitoring

Georgia’s Pre-K Program Quality Assessment (PQA)

Administered by Pre-K Consultants:

- Classroom environments
- Instructional practices/planning
- Implementation of child assessment
  • Used to target technical assistance on child assessment if needed
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment Program - Monitoring

Support for Teachers

- Online PQA learning module
- Online Assessment learning module
- On-site technical assistance
  - Pre-K Consultants
  - Regional Assessment Coordinators
  - Mentor Teachers
- Focused small group support sessions conducted regionally
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment – Kindergarten Transition

2006-07
• Statewide Kindergarten assessment was developed
  ▪ DECAL and DOE collaboration to develop Kindergarten assessment plan
  ▪ Similar to Work Sampling System
    • Report out by domains
    • Portfolio collection
    • Observations in natural settings

2007-08
• Statewide Kindergarten assessment (GKIDS) in pilot

2008-09
• Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers will be trained on both assessments.
Georgia’s Pre-K Child Assessment – Training, Training, and More Training

“...for such curriculum-embedded assessments to be valid, they must be based on standards (what we want children to know and be able to do) and applied by teachers who are trained to observe, record, and evaluate children performing tasks that are part of their daily experience.”

- Samuel J. Meisels

Georgia’s journey is just beginning...