



# 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...



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