



Atlanta Early Education Leadership Council

DRAFT Pre-K and School Transition Recommendations
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**Taking the Georgia Pre-K
program from **good** to **great** for
children in the city of Atlanta**

Conduct a needs-assessment to identify barriers to Pre-K. Use the data gathered to support actions to remove existing barriers

The needs assessment could be conducted with an eye towards availability of information to all families, ease of registration, transportation, need for extended day/year outside of the Pre-K school day/year, etc.

Expand Summer Transition Programs (STPs) for rising Pre-K students and rising Kindergartners to serve students who need additional instructional time and transition support

These programs could be structured in a number of different ways and there may be value in testing different models:

- a 6-week program modeled after DECAL's existing Summer Transition Program,
- a 4-week program, or
- a 4-week instructional program layered with KinderCamps, which are focused on easing the transition to elementary school.

The rising Kindergarten programs can be administered in childcare centers as well as in APS elementary schools. Currently, of the 15 STPs in Atlanta, 10 are offered by childcare providers, 5 are offered by APS. The rising Pre-K programs are administered in childcare centers.

Develop a focused, cluster-level strategy for easing the transition from early learning programs to elementary schools and ensuring children and families receive the services they need

- APS's School Transition Specialist
- Transition coaches within targeted clusters or at targeted elementary schools
- Hub model for service delivery and school transition support
- Create formal structures for ECE engagement in APS, including adding an ECE representative to APS Cluster Advisory Teams and including ECE providers on APS cluster maps

Create an Early Childhood Education Leadership Institute for the purpose of team-building and substantive professional development for cohorts of elementary school principals and childcare center directors

Create a multi-platform, city-wide messaging campaign that includes a “Countdown to Kindergarten” focused on giving parents the information they need regarding the importance of high-quality early learning, including Pre-K, developmental milestones, best practices and services available to support children and families