



Georgia's Pre-K to Third Grade Analysis

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Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)

- Created in 2004
- Aligned key early education programs and initiatives
- Administers
 - Georgia's Pre-K Program
 - Child Care Licensing
 - Child Care Subsidy (CAPS)
 - Quality Rated
 - Head Start State Collaboration Office
 - Federal Nutrition Programs
 - Other Early Learning Initiatives

Georgia's Pre-K Program

- Established in 1992
- Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education
- Available in every Georgia county
- Serves approximately 60% of four year olds
- Successful public-private partnership

Issue: School Readiness

- Achievement gap can be detected as early as 18 months.
- Research continues to demonstrate the impact of high quality preschool, especially for children from lower socio-economic backgrounds and children with diverse needs.
- Georgia's Pre-K Program consistently offers a high quality experience that increases children's school readiness.

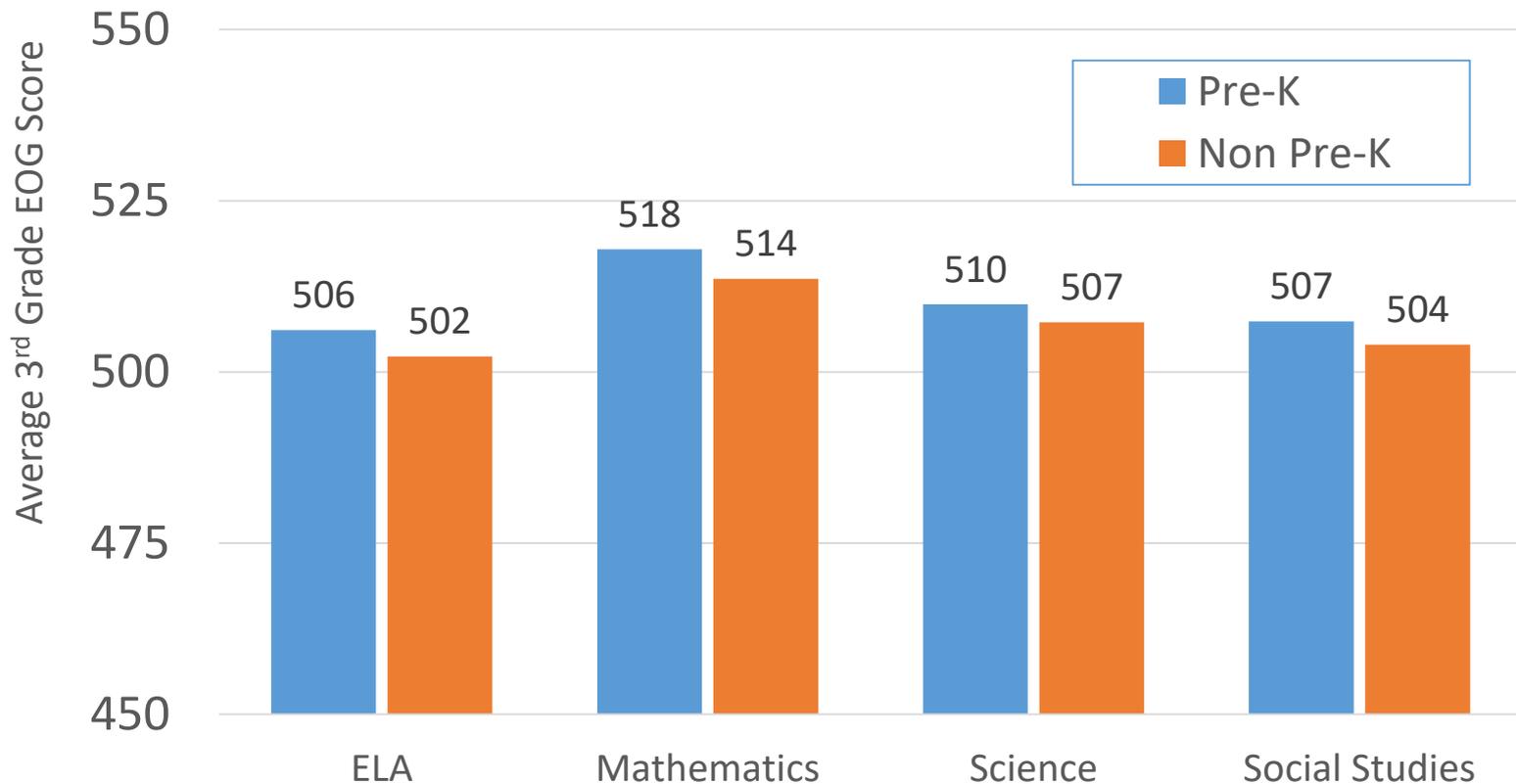
GA·AWARDS Analysis Study Description

- Analysis compared Georgia Milestones 3rd grade end of grade (EOGs) for a group of children who attended Georgia's Pre-K to a group of children who did not attend Georgia's Pre-K.
- Study utilized GA·AWARDS data set.
- Research focused on full population of children who attended Georgia's Pre-K and subsample of children who receive free or reduced lunch.
- Research identified priority of Alliance of Education Agency Heads.

Methods

- Started with 136,310 children with 3rd grade Georgia Milestones EOG assessments score in 2015-2016
- Matched children on:
 - kindergarten school
 - free/reduced lunch
 - home language (English or not)
 - identified disability in kindergarten
 - gender
 - race
 - Hispanic origin
 - age in years in 3rd grade
- Final Sizes: 46,262 for both samples

Children who attended Georgia's Pre-K perform **better** on Georgia Milestones EOG Assessments in 3rd grade than those who did not attend.



Put Another Way...

- For 3rd graders who had attended Georgia's Pre-K Program, the odds of being *Proficient* or *Distinguished* were:
 - 10% higher in English Language Arts (ELA)
 - 18% higher in Math
 - 9% higher in Science
 - 12% higher in Social Studies

Overall Findings

- Small but meaningful differences in Georgia Milestone EOGs test scores for children who had attended Georgia's Pre-K.
 - Test is four years after participating in Georgia's Pre-K.
 - Pre-K is a broad "intervention," and Georgia Milestones EOGs are broad assessments.
- Pre-K most strongly related to 3rd grade test scores for vulnerable children.
 - Impact greater for children eligible for free/reduced lunch.
 - Impact greater for children with a home language other English.

Policy Implications

- GAAWARDS analysis demonstrates the benefit of investments made in a longitudinal data system.
- Continue to support Georgia's Pre-K Program as a key, impactful component of the state's education pipeline.
- Increase early education access including, but not limited to, Georgia's Pre-K Program.
 - Quality Rated child care programs
 - Early Head Start/Head Start
- Continue alignment with Kindergarten – Third Grade

Barriers for Rural Communities

- High Cost of Child Care
- Limited Access to Quality Child Care
 - Fewer child care programs
 - Transportation to and from care
- Workforce issues
 - Lack of qualified teachers
 - Compensation