



## Head Start State Collaboration Office *Executive Summary*

The Head Start State Collaboration Office's main objective is to foster partnerships between federally funded Head Start programs and state funded entities that serve low income children (birth to school entry) and their families. The State Collaboration Office links the federal Office of Head Start with state agencies and local entities enabling them to formulate, implement, and improve state and local policy and practice regarding young children and their families. The Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Office is a member of the Georgia's Children's Cabinet.

The partnerships created by the State Collaboration Office:

- Involve Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and the Georgia Head Start Association Support in creating state policies and implementing plans that affect preschool children and their families;
- Create significant cross-agency initiatives on behalf of children and families;
- Build a more integrated and comprehensive service delivery system to improve families' access to services and to promote a high level of program quality; and
- Encourage local community collaboration between Georgia's Pre-K Program, Head Start, Early Head Start, and other early care and education programs.

The Head Start State Collaboration Office aligned the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards, the K-12 Georgia Performance Standards, and the Head Start Program Performance Standards. This alignment of program standards helps ensure that the level of care and education is consistent and is optimally implemented so that all children in Georgia are prepared to succeed in school.

Georgia Head Start provided educational services, social services, medical and dental services, services for children with disabilities, and parent support services to nearly 28,484 children.

To participate in Head Start programs and Early Head Start programs, families must meet the Head Start Family Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2015.

For more information,  
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### Georgia Head Start Statistics

2014-2015

- ⇒ Head Start was funded to serve **24,823** children
- ⇒ Early Head Start was funded to serve **3,661** children
- ⇒ **27,225** children had health insurance at the end of the enrollment year
- ⇒ **25,451** children's health services were up-to-date at the end of the year
- ⇒ **26,809** children received continuous, accessible dental care
- ⇒ **27,483** children received continuous, accessible medical care
- ⇒ **1,879** children received mental health assessments
- ⇒ **2,667** children with disabilities received services
- ⇒ **604** homeless families were served and **208** acquired housing
- ⇒ **13,595** three year olds were served
- ⇒ **10,662** four year olds were served
- ⇒ **78%** Head Start classroom teachers have a B.A in ECE or higher
- ⇒ **35.4%** of assistant teachers have an AA or higher and 64% have a CDA credential
- ⇒ **4,022** children are currently enrolled in blended Head Start/Pre-K programs (as of November 2015)



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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

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