

**First Five Years Fund**  
www.ffyf.org



# GEORGIA

FEDERAL AND STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION INVESTMENT

States across the nation are leading the way to ensure more children—especially those from low-income families—have access to high-quality early learning and care from birth through age five. And much of the progress at the state and local level has been made possible by strong partnerships with the federal government aimed at expanding access, increasing quality, and more. In Georgia (GA), over 166,000 children have access to quality early learning and care through state and federal funding. This abbreviated overview provides a glimpse of the early childhood education opportunities that exist in Georgia, including those made possible with federal funding in fiscal year 2015.

## EVERY YEAR:

1

State Pre-K Serves

**80,000+  
CHILDREN**

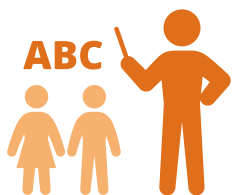
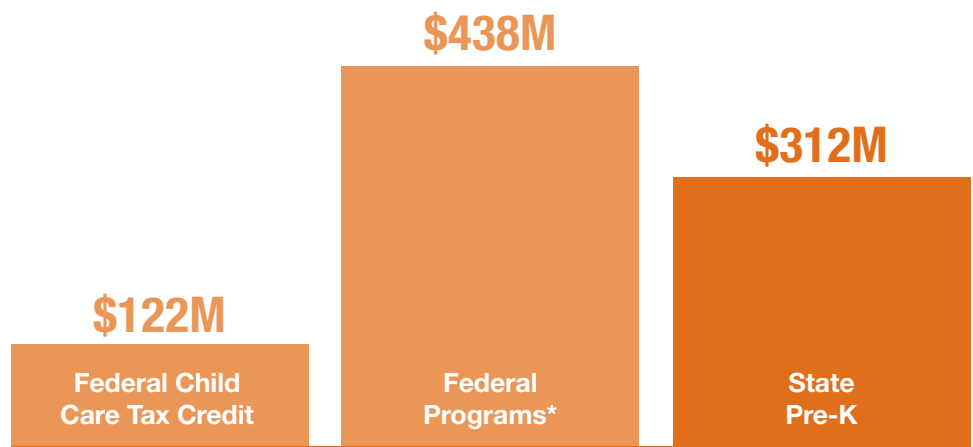
2

Head Start and  
Early Head Start Serve

**25,000+  
CHILDREN**

## FEDERAL AND STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM FUNDING FY15

\*Federal programs include: Head Start, Early Head Start, MIECHV, Early Head Start — Child Care Partnerships, Child Care and Development Fund.



**166,000+**

Over 166,000 kids benefit from  
federal and state programs.\*\*

\*\*Federal and state programs include State Pre-K, Head Start and Early Head Start, MIECHV, and the Child Care and Development Fund. MIECHV figures include parents and children served.



**9,600+**

The Federal Maternal, Infant, and  
Early Childhood Home Visiting  
(MIECHV) program supports over  
9,600 voluntary home visits  
to new parents.



**\$7,500**

Center-based care  
costs approximately  
\$7,500 per child.

# A TIMELINE OF STATE LEADERSHIP: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN GEORGIA

**1992**

Georgia's pilot Pre-K program begins serving at-risk four-year-olds.

**2003**

Pre-K continues to expand and major improvements in quality are implemented.

**2013**

Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) introduced.

**1995**

Georgia Pre-K opens to all eligible four-year-olds and enrolls 44,000.

**2004**

Georgia Pre-K officially becomes Bright from the Start.

**2017**

Over 80,000 four-year-olds are enrolled in Georgia's Pre-K.

**“By making strategic investments in Georgia’s Pre-K program, we hope to provide each student with a strong learning foundation.”**

— GEORGIA GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL



## HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION: EDUCARE OF ATLANTA

- Educare is a network of high-quality early childhood education programs across America serving low-income children from birth through age five through public-private partnerships in which funding and governance includes the local schools, Head Start and Early Head Start, private philanthropy, and other community and private sector support.
- Provides free school for children from infancy through Pre-K when parents register for a career-development program.
- Educare of Atlanta is housed in the same building as its partner elementary school to improve coordination.
- After one year of operation, the percentage of participating children entering kindergarten at or above grade level increased 49%.
- The employment rate of parents with children enrolled at Educare increased 33%.

## IN GEORGIA, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS SHOWN TO:



Improve Social/  
Emotional Development



Grow Literacy/  
Numeracy Skills



Increase  
Wages



Reduce the Need  
for Spending on  
Special Education