



Georgia's Pre-K Inclusion Models

MODEL	Total number of students*	Number of general education students	Number of students with IEPs	Georgia's Pre-K funded staff (full instructional day)	Board of Education funded staff	Benefits
I	18	12	6	1 Pre-K Teacher & 1 Pre-K Assistant	1 Special Education Teacher for the full instructional day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Education funds a Special Education teacher only (no para) for 6 students with IEPs • Use of existing classroom space • Full Pre-K funding for 20 students; 18 students enrolled • Students with IEPs (6) funded by Pre-K and 619 funds
II	36 students divided into 2 classes (18 in each class)	12 in each class	6 in each class	1 Pre-K Teacher & 1 Pre-K Assistant in each class	1 Special Education Teacher & 1 Special Education Para to alternate between classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Education funds only 1 Special Education Teacher & 1 Special Education Para for 12 students with IEPs (more efficient use of staff) • Use of existing classroom space • Full Pre-K funding for 40 students; 36 students enrolled • Students with IEPs (12) funded by Pre-K and 619 funds
III	18	12	6	1 Pre-K Teacher & 1 Pre-K Assistant	1 Special Education Teacher for half of the instructional day 1 Special Education Para for the other half of the instructional day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Education funds only a part-time Special Education Teacher & a part-time Special Education Para for 6 students with IEPs (Special Education Teacher & Para available to serve other students for the remainder of the day) • Use of existing classroom space • 20 students funded; 18 enrolled • Students with IEPs (6) funded by Pre-K and 619 funds

* The numbers in the models are to be used as a reference. Decisions about classroom size and make-up are made on an individual basis. All Pre-K classrooms can serve a maximum of 20 students.

Including Children with Special Needs in Georgia's Pre-K Program

Not all of Georgia's Pre-K programs have state approved inclusion classes, but at any given time, many programs will need to incorporate inclusive practices into general education classrooms. Students of varying abilities may be served in many ways in Pre-K classrooms. Students may have community based teachers and therapists who come into the classroom to deliver services, and some students may attend Pre-K for part of the instructional day and attend therapy or another classroom for the remainder of the day. Still other students may fully participate in the Pre-K program and receive only consultative services from teachers or therapists. Although these classrooms include students with special needs, they would not be considered state approved inclusion classrooms as defined by Bright from the Start.

State Approved Inclusion Pre-K Classrooms

Georgia's Pre-K State Approved Inclusion Classrooms have a minimum of five and a maximum of eight students with individual education programs (IEPs). State Approved inclusion classes have full-time general education teachers and assistants funded by Bright from the Start as well as full-time special education support funded by the local board of education. Special education support must include at least four hours of direct services from a special education teacher daily. State approved inclusion classes can be school based or community based, and students in state approved inclusion classrooms who have IEPs are dually enrolled in Georgia's Pre-K program and the local school system. Inclusion models are designed to fit individual programs and will be considered on an individual basis.

Students attending a state approved inclusion class who have an IEP can be enrolled under the guidelines of the local Board of Education. General Education students enrolled in a state approved inclusion class must be enrolled under Bright from the Start guidelines.