



## **Options for Pre-Kindergarten Program Development or Partnership**

Over the past several months, we have researched different options for preK program development or partnership. This overview provides a general summary of the different possibilities and considerations for each of them and is intended to serve as a starting point for further discussion about whether and how ANCS may want to proceed--if at all--in the area of preK.

### **OPTION 1: Partner with an existing preK provider with matriculating students receiving preference in admission to ANCS**

[Georgia charter school law](#) allows charter schools to identify in their charters a “local school” from which students who are matriculating can receive enrollment preference at the charter school. Therefore, a charter school could enter into a partnership with a local preschool or preK program to give students from that program enrollment preference in order to partner with a program with a similar educational model, to promote efforts at attracting a more economically diverse student body, or for other reasons.

*Example of this model in practice:* Drew Charter School has a memorandum of understanding in place with the East Lake location of [Sheltering Arms](#). Under the terms of the MOU, this location of Sheltering Arms has agreed to follow Drew’s enrollment priorities and zones and to have a liaison with Drew, but otherwise, the preK program is run and overseen by Sheltering Arms.

### **OPTION 2: Become a site for state-funded preK program within the Atlanta Public Schools**

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) offers state-funded preK classrooms at different elementary schools around the city. A charter school could become a site for one or more of these preK classrooms included in the offerings in the district. [The APS Office of Early Learning](#) would provide management and oversight of the classroom, though the school principal can be involved, to some degree, in overseeing and hiring for the classroom. Certain space requirements must be met to host a state-funded preK classroom at your site.

The classrooms are open to all families zoned for APS schools, so no geographic enrollment preferences can be given. It is unclear whether a preK program could use a weighted lottery to increase the odds of admission for economically disadvantaged students and it is also unclear as to whether students enrolled in a state-funded preK classroom could be given enrollment preference for admission to a charter school.

*Example of this model in practice:* Beginning next school year, [Kindezi Schools will work with APS’s Office of Early Learning to offer a preK classroom at Gideons Elementary School](#), a school for which recently took over operations.



### OPTION 3: Develop and manage our own state-funded preK program

A charter school can work with Georgia’s Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to become a state-funded preK program provider. Under this option, the school would have direct control over the management and operations of the program, and the program can fall under its charter, meaning that enrollment priorities and preferences could apply.

Funding for preK programs is set by the state, and based solely on enrollment, so if you are not enrolled to the 22 student per class amount, you will receive less funding. Additionally, funding is provided for a teacher and assistant for each preK classroom based on the state salary schedule (not inclusive of benefits), so if your school wants to compensate at a higher amount, the school must make up the funding difference (see below for current state preK classroom funding allocations).

Example of this model in practice: [The Cox PreK Program at Drew Charter School](#)

2017-2018 Georgia's Pre-K Annual Rates - 1 Class of 22 Students						
Credential	Private Metro Area		Private Non-Metro Area		Public School	
Insufficient	Salary Lead	\$ 15,872.89	Salary Lead	\$ 15,872.89	Salary Lead	\$ 15,872.89
	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89
	Operating	\$ 31,723.92	Operating	\$ 25,131.62	Operating	\$ 22,012.68
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 63,469.70</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 56,877.40</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 53,758.46</b>
	Per Child Per Year	\$ 2,884.99	Per Child Per Year	\$ 2,585.34	Per Child Per Year	\$ 2,443.57
	Per Child Per Month	\$ 288.50	Per Child Per Month	\$ 258.53	Per Child Per Month	\$ 244.36
Credential	Private Metro Area		Private Non-Metro Area		Public School	
Two Year Degree	Salary Lead	\$ 21,449.88	Salary Lead	\$ 21,449.88	Salary Lead	\$ 21,449.88
	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89
	Operating	\$ 33,049.01	Operating	\$ 28,458.71	Operating	\$ 23,337.77
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 70,371.76</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 63,779.46</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 60,660.52</b>
	Per Child Per Year	\$ 3,198.72	Per Child Per Year	\$ 2,899.07	Per Child Per Year	\$ 2,757.30
	Per Child Per Month	\$ 319.87	Per Child Per Month	\$ 289.91	Per Child Per Month	\$ 275.73
Credential	Private Metro Area		Private Non-Metro Area		Public School	
Four Year Degree	Salary Lead	\$ 27,315.60	Salary Lead	\$ 27,315.60	Salary Lead	\$ 27,315.60
	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89
	Operating	\$ 34,442.71	Operating	\$ 27,850.41	Operating	\$ 24,731.47
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 77,631.20</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 71,038.90</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 67,919.96</b>
	Per Child Per Year	\$ 3,528.69	Per Child Per Year	\$ 3,229.04	Per Child Per Year	\$ 3,087.27
	Per Child Per Month	\$ 352.87	Per Child Per Month	\$ 322.90	Per Child Per Month	\$ 308.73
Credential	Private Metro Area		Private Non-Metro Area		Public School	
Certified (T4)	Salary Lead	\$ 35,820.73	Salary Lead	\$ 35,820.73	Salary Lead	\$ 35,820.73
	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89	Salary Asst.	\$ 15,872.89
	Operating	\$ 36,483.52	Operating	\$ 29,871.22	Operating	\$ 31,421.16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 88,157.14</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 81,564.84</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 83,114.78</b>
	Per Child Per Year	\$ 4,007.14	Per Child Per Year	\$ 3,707.49	Per Child Per Year	\$ 3,777.94
	Per Child Per Month	\$ 400.71	Per Child Per Month	\$ 370.75	Per Child Per Month	\$ 377.79