



Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

February 19, 2015



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

www.dec.state.ga.us

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve **2-19-15** agenda
- Approve **11-13-14** minutes



Inspiration



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Board Member Updates

Board members report on their recent DECAL-related activities in their districts.





Commissioner's Update

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner



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Miscellaneous Topics

- House Bill 100
- Read Across Georgia
- Education Reform Commission/Early Education Subcommittee
- Special Recognition

Special Recognition – Sherron Murphy

- Named Gwinnett Technical College's Rick Perkins Award of Excellence in Technical Education (instructor of the year)
- Will represent the college in statewide competition



Questions & Comments from Board





Finance & Legislative Update

Ray Higgins

Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration



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Finance Update

FY 2015				
Data as of Dec 31st	Budget	Expenditures*	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
BY PROGRAMS				
Child Care Services	\$245,146,508	\$134,919,601	\$110,226,907	45%
Pre-K + (HS)	\$314,462,432	\$151,744,316	\$162,718,116	52%
Quality Initiatives	\$31,087,275	\$22,646,828	\$8,440,447	27%
Nutrition	\$125,550,000	\$70,585,661	\$54,964,339	44%
Total Expenses	\$716,246,215	\$379,896,406	\$336,349,809	47%
BY FUNDING SOURCE				
State General	\$55,493,488	\$22,636,980	\$32,856,508	59%
State Lottery	\$314,300,032	\$151,661,639	\$162,638,393	52%
Federal	\$346,366,695	\$205,539,347	\$140,827,348	41%
Other	\$86,000	\$58,440	\$27,560	32%
Total Funds	\$716,246,215	\$379,896,406	\$336,349,809	47%
* Includes encumbrances.				

Legislative Update



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Programs Update

CCDBG Reauthorization Plan

Keith D. Bostick, L.C.S.W.
Deputy Commissioner for Programs



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What is CCDF Reauthorization?

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 was signed into law November 19, 2014.
- Reauthorizes the CCDF program for the first time since 1996.
- CCDF is a \$5.3 billion block grant program that provides funding to states, territories, and tribes to provide access to child care services for low-income families and to improve the quality of child care.
- The CCDBG Act of 2014 renews authority for CCDF through FY 2020 and represents an historic re-envisioning of the program.
- Focused on better balancing dual purposes:
 - To promote economic self-sufficiency for low-income families
 - To support healthy development and school readiness needs of children



Enhanced Purposes of CCDF

- To allow each state maximum flexibility in developing child care programs and policies that best suit the needs of children and parents
- To promote parental choice to empower working parents to make their own decisions regarding the child care services that best suit their family's needs
- To encourage states to provide consumer education information to help parents make informed choices about child care services and to promote involvement by parents and family members in the development of their children in child care settings
- To assist states in delivering high-quality, coordinated early childhood care and education services to maximize parents' options and support parents trying to achieve independence from public assistance
- To assist states in improving the overall quality of child care services and programs by implementing the health, safety, licensing, training, and oversight standards
- To improve child care and development of participating children
- To increase the number and percentage of low-income children in high-quality child care settings

Significant Advancements

- Makes child care safer by defining health and safety requirements for child care providers, requiring background checks, and inspection of facilities
- Provides more stability for parents and children through family-friendly eligibility policies
- Helps parents better understand child care choices available to them by improving accessibility and transparency of information about providers



Key Features

Health and Safety
Criminal Background
Checks
Monitoring
Training & Professional
Development
Eligibility Policies
Consumer Education



Family Engagement
Increased Quality
Spending
Infants and Toddlers
Payment Rates & Provider
Payment Practices
Underserved Populations
Tribal Provisions (*GA does
not officially recognize any
tribal groups.*)

Implementation and Effective Dates

- Georgia CCDF Plan is due July 1, 2015 covering the period FY 2016-2018 (three-year plan)
- Actions required:
 - National conversation with ACF/OCC
 - Internal DECAL planning
 - Board updates
 - On-going technical assistance from ACF/OCC
 - External stakeholder dialogue
 - Governor's Office and other state departments
 - Providers
 - Partners
 - Citizens (Public Hearings)
 - Other





Child Care Services Update Health and Safety

Kristie Lewis
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services



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CCS Work Projects

- Voluntary Standards Review
- Peer to Peer State Calls
- School-Age Standards
- Reauthorization Impacts
- Exemptions
- KOALA
- Closures



Child Care Services Data

Facility Types	Number Open	Capacity
Child Care Learning Centers	2,878	340,478
Group Day Care Homes	222	12,968
Family Day Care Homes	2,162	3,453
Totals:	5,262	356,899



2015 License Fee Renewal Process

Schedule	Description/Activities
11/1/2014	Generate 2015 license fee renewals; e-mail to all providers; start collecting fees
12/1/14	Due date for fees; start 30-day grace period; e-mail 1 st overdue notice
12/31/14	30-day grace period ends
1/1/15	Generate late fees; e-mail 2 nd overdue notice & citation for non-payment and/or missing verification of lawful presence
2/1 – 2/28/15	Start revocation process for non-payment of fee and/or missing verification of lawful presence; deliver revocation notices
30 days following delivery or receipt confirmation of revocation notice	Close facility

Yearly Comparison

Beginning of License Fee Annual Processing					
	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
	Open 11/01/2011	Open 11/01/2012	Open 11/01/2013	Open 11/01/2014	Open 02/10/2015
CCLC	3,128	3,069	2,996	2,906	2,879
FDCH	3,260	2,916	2,609	2,259	2,161
GDCH	260	260	248	229	222
Grand Total	6,648	6,245	5,853	5,394	5,262

BREAK
(10 minutes)



Federal Programs Update

Deidria W. Bolden
Assistant Commissioner for Federal Programs and
Administration



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Nutrition Services: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Expansion 2015

2015 Goals

Increase Awareness

Increase Access and Participation

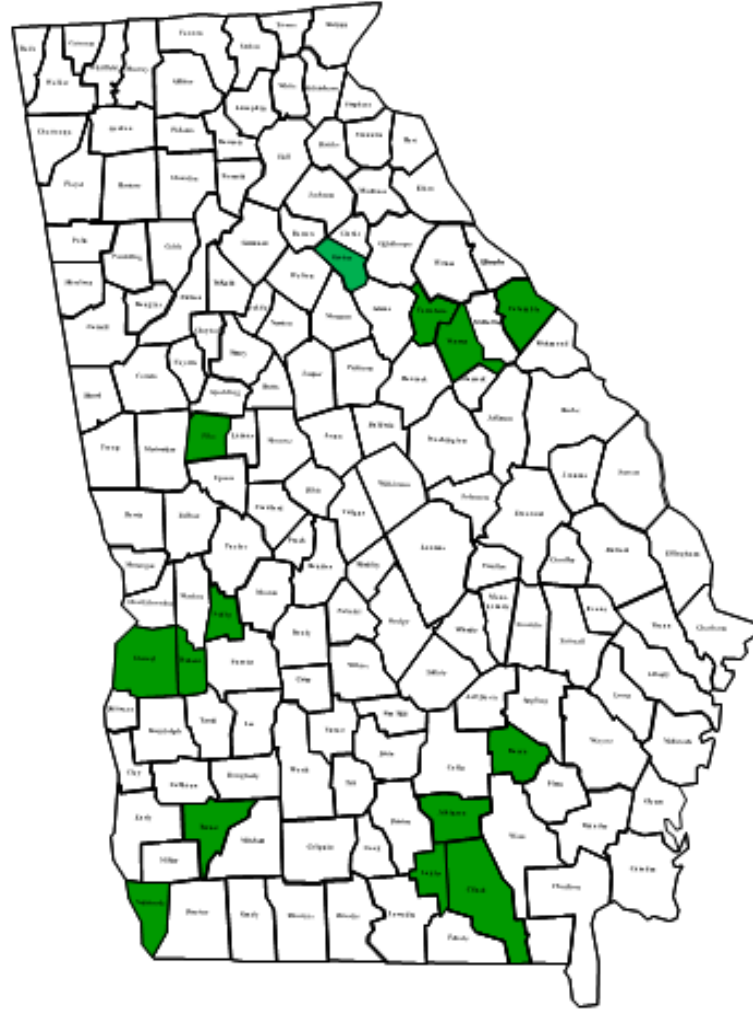
Increase Resources and Support to Sponsors



SFSP: Increase Awareness, Access, and Participation

Targeted Efforts

- Local Park and Recreation Centers
- School Systems
- Churches/Food Pantries
- Libraries
- Police Athletic Leagues
- Mobile Feeding Routes



2014
Targeted
Unserved
Counties:

Atkinson
Bacon
Baker
Clinch
Columbia
Lanier
Oconee
Pike
Schley
Seminole
Stewart
Taliaferro
Warren
Webster



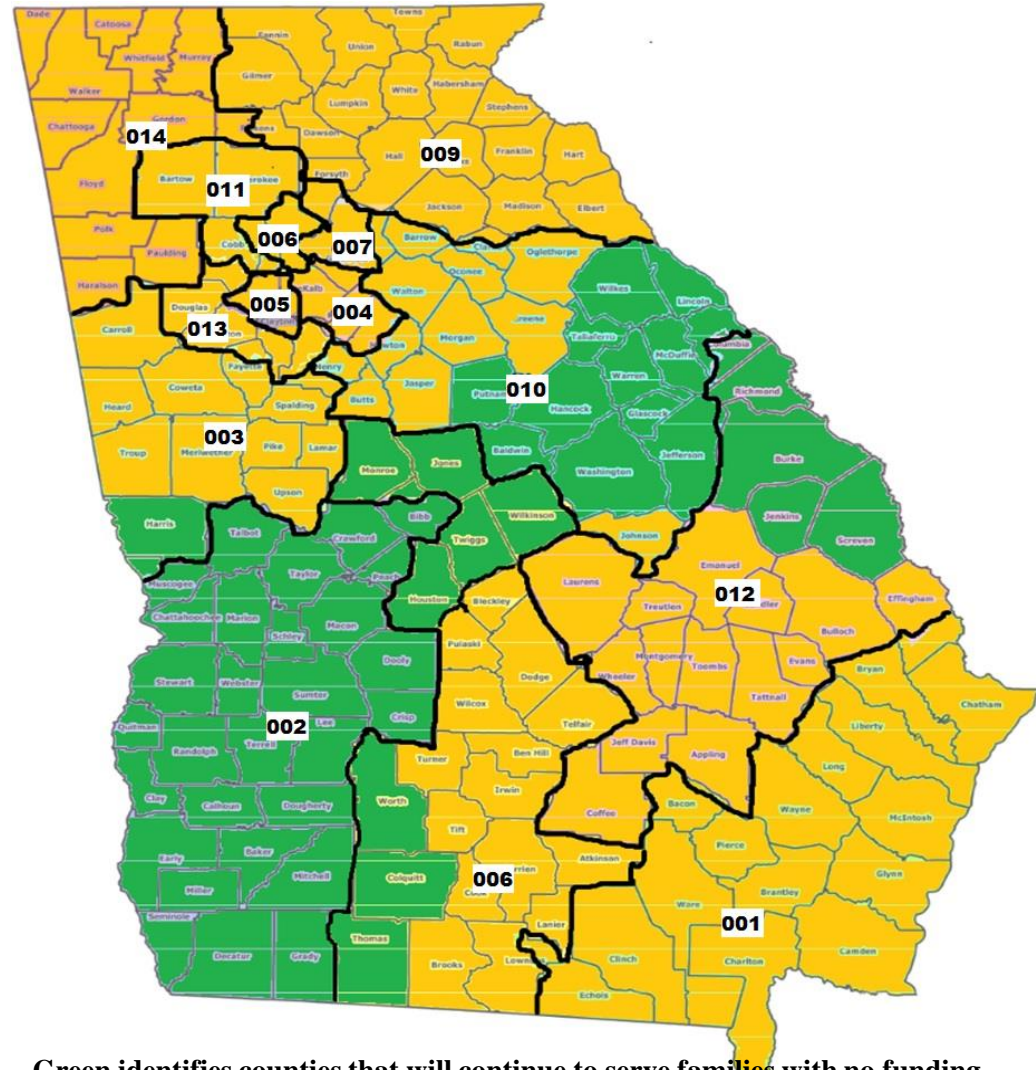
Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Data



	January 2014	January 2015
Children served	55,466	54,800
Families participating	42,384	44,072
Child care programs participating	3,900	3,922
New applications received in month	11,000	12,335
Child care programs (QR) receiving tiered reimbursement incentives	218	291

CAPS Funding Restrictions by County

Congressional District	Board Member
1 st	Kay Ford
2 nd	Susan Harper
3 rd	Kathy Howell
4 th	Phil Davis
5 th	Carlene Talton
6 th	Dawnn Henderson
7 th	Sherron Murphy
8 th	Luann Purcell, Ed.D.
9 th	Tammy Lenkeit
10 th	Janice Gallimore
11 th	Victor Morgan
12 th	Jerri Kropp
13 th	Judy Neal
14 th	Tangela Johnson



Green identifies counties that will continue to serve families with no funding restrictions. Yellow identifies counties that will serve priority families only.



CAPS Priority Families



- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) applicants and recipients
- Children in DFCS custody
- Families involved with DFCS child protective services
- Minor parents in school
- Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Children with special needs
- Children in Georgia's Pre-K Program requiring extended care
- Victims of natural disaster

Constituents with questions/concerns about the funding restrictions should contact CAPS at 404-657-3434 or CAPS.Support@dec.al.ga.gov



Georgia's Pre-K Program & Instructional Support Update

Susan Adams
Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K &
Instructional Support



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Georgia's Pre-K Professional Development Evaluation



Background

- Increasing evidence supports that teacher-child interactions are the aspect of classroom quality most associated with children's academic gains.
- CLASS is a widely used measure of teacher-child interactions and measures Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.
- Georgia's Pre-K began using CLASS as a framework for its professional development in 2009.
- Efforts expanded in 2010 as part of Georgia's Race to the Top (RT3) initiative to improve early learning outcomes.

Overview

- Evaluated the impact of two professional development models: *Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI)* and *My Teaching Partner (MTP)* on teacher-child interactions in Georgia's Pre-K classrooms.
- Data collection included pre- and post-test classroom observations and teacher questionnaires, coach/instructor questionnaires and interviews, and administrative information regarding participation in the professional development activities.

Design

- 486 Georgia's Pre-K lead teachers were randomly selected from counties targeted by Georgia's Race to the Top (RT3) K-12 grant
- Selected teachers were randomly assigned to:
 - MMCI (n = 175)
 - MTP (n = 151)
 - Control (n = 160)

Strengths of the Evaluation

- Teachers were randomly selected for participation.
- Teachers were randomly assigned to a professional development model.
- Professional development activities were led by regular Georgia's Pre-K consultants.
- Mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods was used.
- Because of the rigorous design, we can be confident that:
 - Any differences between the groups at the end of the study were caused by the professional development activities
 - The findings reflect the type of change we would anticipate among Georgia's Pre-K teachers if these models were broadly implemented.

Summary of Findings

	MMCI vs. control	MTP vs. control	MMCI vs. MTP
Emotional Support	MMCI > control	MTP > control	No difference
Classroom Organization	No difference	No difference	No difference
Instructional Support	MMCI > control	No difference	No difference
Knowledge of Effective Teacher-Child Interactions	MMCI > control	No difference	MMCI > MTP
Perceived Value of the Professional Development	MMCI > control	MTP > control	No difference
Relationship with Coach/Instructor	Not applicable	Not applicable	MTP > MMCI

Effect sizes ranged from .22 for the effect of MTP on Emotional Support to .36 for the effect of MMCI on Emotional Support.

Did teachers attain high quality?

- How many reached 5.00 or higher on Emotional Support and a 3.25 or higher on Instructional Support at post-test?
 - 34% of MMCI teachers
 - 30% of MTP teachers
 - 23% of control
- MMCI significantly increased a teacher's odds of attaining this level of quality, but MTP did not.
- Gains produced by the interventions were not at the level needed for Pre-K programs to optimize children's outcomes.

Key Themes from Instructor/Coach Interviews

- For both programs, a majority of instructors/coaches said they had increased knowledge of the CLASS, had become better observers, and gained new perspectives about how to interact and communicate with teachers in concrete ways and using a common language.
 - “I have noticed that I incorporate a lot of that CLASS language into my day-to-day work with teachers and with directors, but I think it helps me to focus on specific things when I’m in a classroom.”

Conclusions

- Georgia's Pre-K teachers benefited from and liked both the MMCI and MTP interventions.
- MMCI is a feasible intervention for large-scale adoption.
- Additional research is needed to understand better the circumstances under which MMCI and MTP are most likely to support meaningful improvements in teacher-child interactions.
- Advancements in early childhood professional development are still needed.

Next Steps



Head Start State Collaboration Update

Janice Haker
Head Start State Collaboration Director



Head Start Collaboration Projects

- Annual Needs Assessment
- Disability MOU
- Homelessness MOU
- Attendance
- Body Mass Index (BMI)/Obesity
- Home Visiting (Great Start Georgia)

Head Start Celebrates



50

**Years of
Opportunity**
Head Start

1965-2015

The Georgia Head Start Association
cordially invites you
to join us in celebrating
the 50th anniversary of the nation's leading
early childhood program:
Head Start

February 17, 2015
11:00 am-1:30 pm
Georgia State Capitol Building
Room 132

Please stop by for Head Start information
Refreshment will be available

Quality Rated and Head Start

- 152 centers (44%) are participating
- 62 (41%) are rated
 - 16% rated 1 star
 - 44% rated 2 stars
 - 39% rated 3 stars

EHS/Child Care Partnership Grants Awarded

● Atlanta	Easter Seals of North Georgia	\$900,000
● Atlanta	DECAL	\$3,500,000
● Augusta	CSRA, EOA	\$900,000
● Cartersville	Tallatoona CAP	\$1,500,000
● Columbus	Enrichment Services Program	\$1,300,000
● Dalton	Family Resource Agency	\$1,400,000
● Forest Park	Clayton County CSA	\$1,100,000
● Fort Valley	Fort Valley State University	\$5,600,000
	TOTAL	\$16,200,000



System Reform Update





Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership Grant

Carol Hartman
Director Policy and System Reform



Early Head Start Partnership Project

DECAL awarded \$3.8 million per year for five years to:

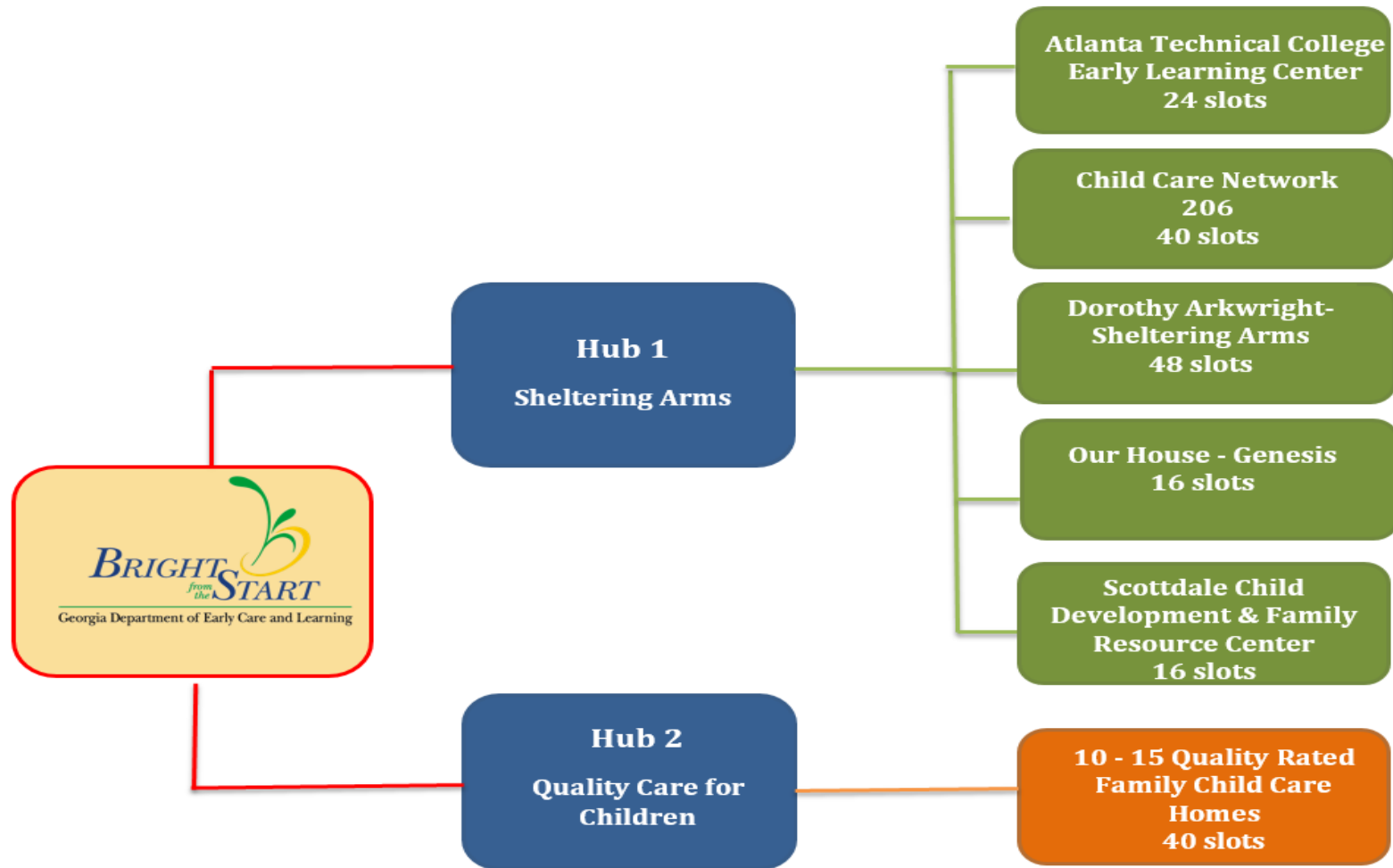
- Partner with early education programs to deliver comprehensive services to infants and toddlers and their families.
- Create early education hubs to support programs in meeting the Head Start Performance Standards.

Early Head Start Partnership Project

Early Head Start Grantee

Early Head Start Hubs

Early Head Start Partners



Early Head Start Partnership Project

Benefits:

- Increase quality and access
- Enhance services for children, families, and teachers
- Create aligned policies
- Leverage resources
- Learn



QUALITY RATEDSM

Pam Stevens
Quality Rated Director



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Quality Rated Implementation

	Target for end of calendar year 2014 1,755*				
	10/1/13	9/4/14	11/7/14	12/31/14	2/10/15
Total number of programs participating in Quality Rated	1,126	1,336	1,550	1,779*	1,897



By the Numbers

123 
child care programs

207 
child care programs

118 
child care programs

448

Georgia child care
programs are
Quality Rated

Find **Quality Rated** child care and
more information at www.QualityRated.org.

Quality Rated Updates

- Special Populations
 - School Age Pilot
 - Public School Pre-K Centers
- Bonus and Incentive Packages
 - QR Assessor Work Groups
 - Focus Groups
- QRi Designation
- Peer Support Network

Communication Plan: Weber Shandwick

- Messaging
 - Streamlined
 - Bold
- Audience
 - Child Care Providers
 - Families
 - Advocates
 - Funders
 - Legislators



Early Education Empowerment Zones (E3Zs)

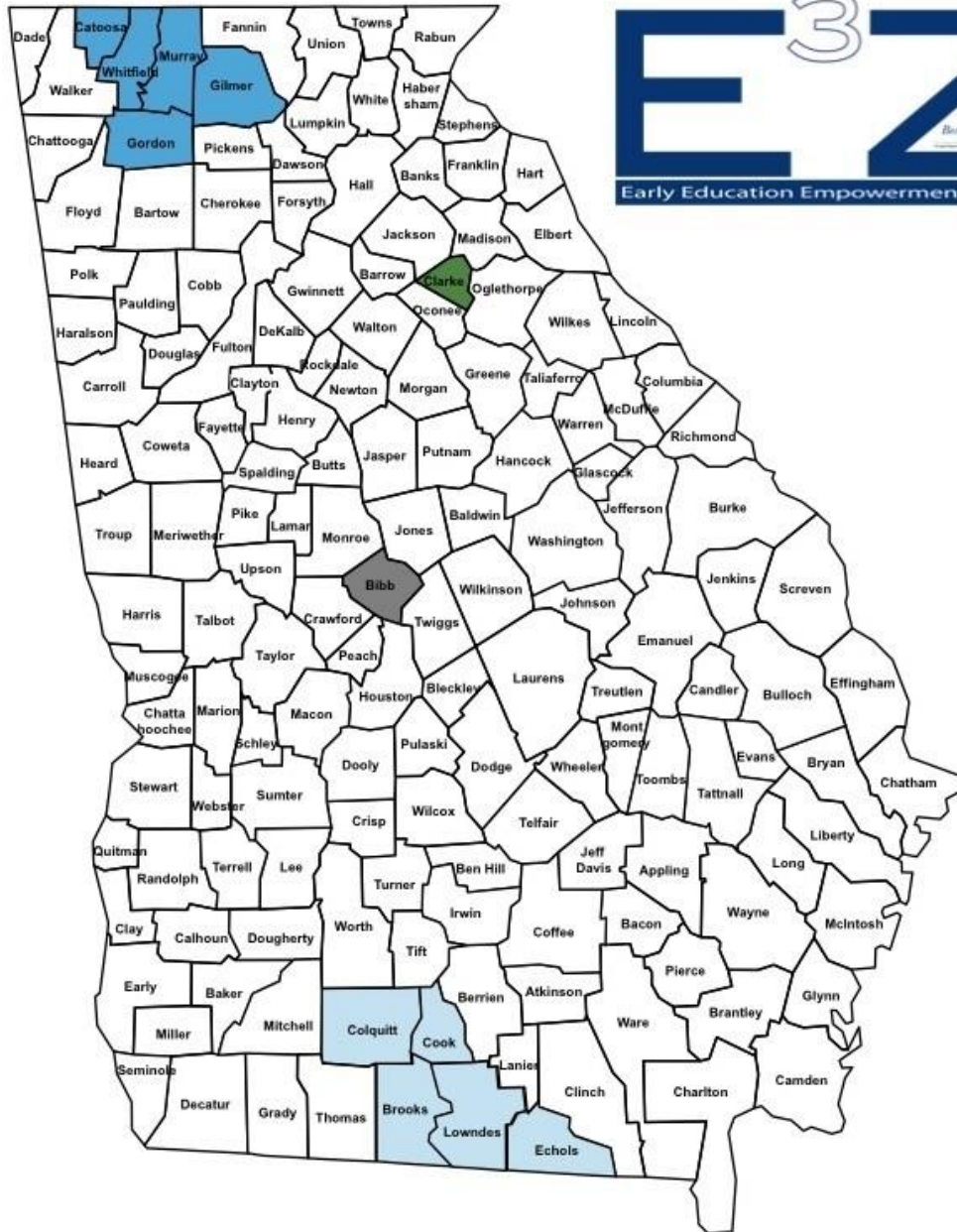
Laura Wagner
Early Education Empowerment Zone Director



Successful State Systems

Early Education Empowerment Zones (E³Zs)

- Purpose: Align supports, activities, and services in geographical areas with large numbers or high percentages of children with high needs and improve infrastructure for high quality early learning programs
- Activities:
 - Offer increased incentives for offering and selecting high-quality early learning environments
 - Work with community leaders to improve early childhood infrastructure and increase economic opportunities
 - Utilize Georgia's existing tax incentives based on job creation to encourage high quality providers to open or expand in E³Zs to enhance access to child care



Staffing and Infrastructure Supports

- Community coordinators based in each zone

- North: Suzanne Harbin
- South: Jill Griffin
- Bibb County: Valerie Blackmon
- Clarke: Clayton Adams

- Business Operations Specialist

- Micca Burris

- Birth to Eight Teams

- Vary by region: Clarke County and Bibb County have existing infrastructure to support; North and South Georgia Zones are composed of communities which may or may not have been regional partners previously.



Development of Critical Partnerships

- Goal: *DECAL will partner with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and Georgia Department of Community Affairs to identify potential infrastructure investors in the areas with the ultimate goal of ensuring that 10 new three-star programs are located in the E3Zs by 2017.*

Programmatic Developments – ELCG and the E3Zs

- Subsidy Enhancements
 - TA from the BUILD Initiative
 - Representative group of DECAL leaders – weekly meetings
 - Quality Rated Subsidy Grants and Tiered Family Co-Pay Assistance
- Home Visiting Expansion in the E3Zs
 - Partnership with Great Start Georgia
 - Community proposals drafted in three out of four zones
 - Community leaders convened to discuss expansion in South Georgia

Lunch

(Served in Entry Area)

Committee Meetings

Programs – Hickory

Budget/Finance – Willow

System Reform – Cypress

(The public is welcome to attend/observe committee meetings but may not participate in the committee's discussion.)

Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

Public Comments

February 19, 2015

Committee Reports

- Budget/Finance – Carlene Talton
- Programs – Sherron Murphy
- System Reform – Dawnn Henderson

Remaining Board Meeting Dates 2015

May 14, 2015

August 20, 2015

November 12, 2015

Elections for new board chair, vice chair, and secretary will be held at May meeting. New officers assume responsibilities at August meeting.