

# Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

*August 24, 2023*



**Georgia Dept  
of Early Care  
and Learning**

**BRIGHT FROM THE START**

# Board Meeting Welcome

*Phil Davis, Board Chair*



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# Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve 08/24/2023 agenda
- Approve 05/18/2023 minutes



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# Inspiration

*Joanna Hill*



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# The Star Polisher

I have a great job in the universe of occupations.

What do I do?

I'm a "star polisher."

It's a very important job.

If you want to know how important

just go out at night and look at the stars  
twinkling and sparkling.

You see, I'm a teacher, educator, a mentor.

The stars are the children in my class.

My job is to take them in  
whatever shape they come,  
and shine and buff them  
and then send them out



to take their places as bright twinkling beacons in the  
sky.

They come into my room in all shapes and sizes.  
Sometimes they're bent, tarnished, dirty, crinkly, or  
broken.

Some stars are cuddly and soft.

Some are prickly and thorny.

As I buff and polish, I train and teach my little stars

I tell them that the world cannot do without them  
Each night as I look at the sky, I'm reminded of my very  
important job

and awesome responsibility

Then I get my soft buffing cloth and my bottle of polish

In preparation for tomorrow  
...for my class of little stars



-Teah Becks

# Board Member Updates

# Commissioner's Updates

*Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner*



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Celebrating

30

Years!





# Child Care Tuition Assistance Program for Early Educators



New **pilot** program designed to support providers to recruit and retain staff:

- DECAL will provide financial support to offset cost of tuition for staff members' children
- Pilot group will include up to 30 programs
- Application will open in Fall 2023
- Participating programs will be chosen at random and notified via email



# Laws Passed to Support Literacy

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## **SB 211**

### **Establish the Georgia Council on Literacy**

- Tasked with addressing issues relating to increasing the literacy outcomes of Georgians from birth to adulthood
- Comprised of legislators, educators, literacy advocates, family and community partners

## **HB 538**

### **Georgia Early Literacy Act**

- Aims to improve the quality of early reading instruction
- Will provide for the establishment and implementation of evidence-based literacy instruction and curriculum for students



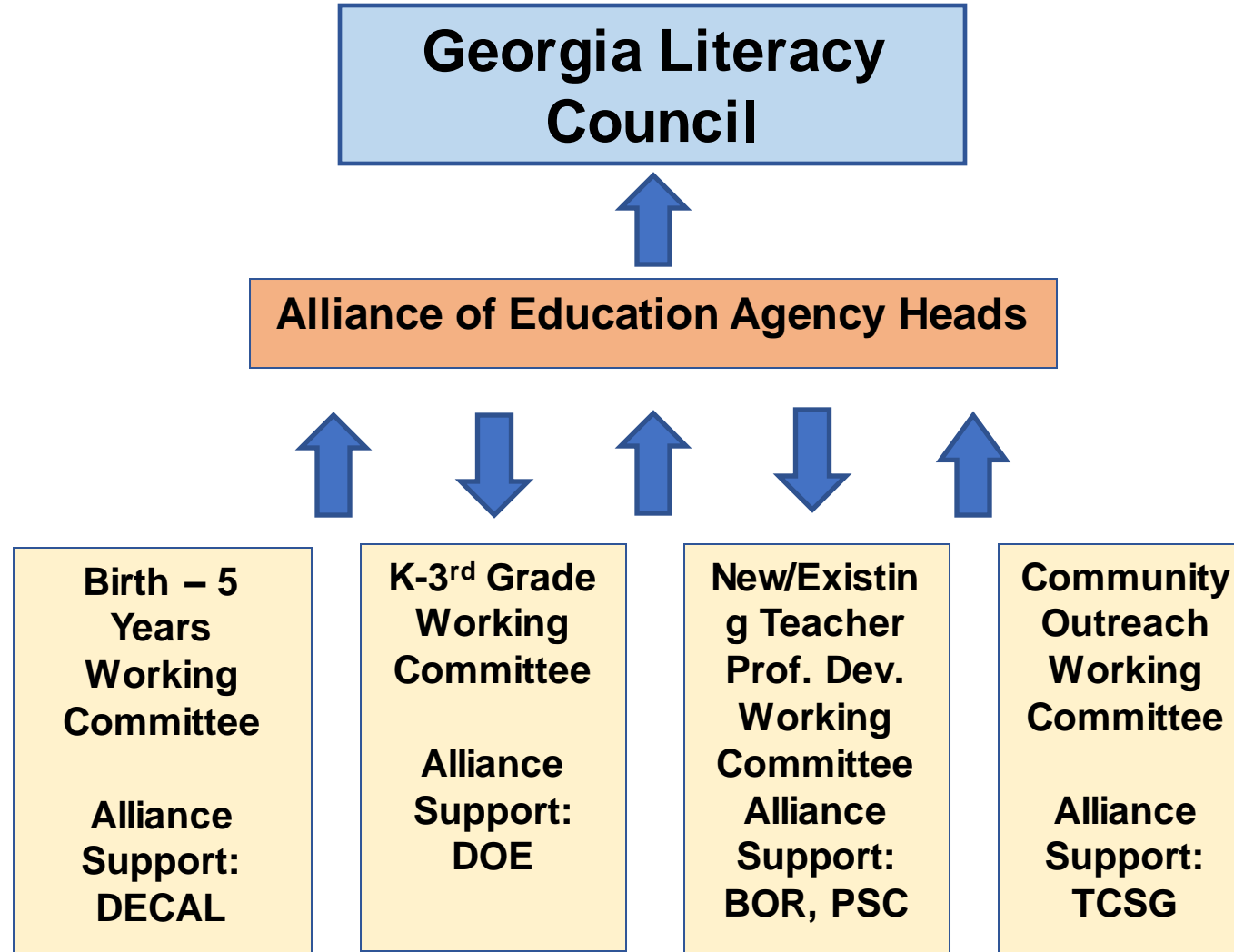
# SB 211: GA Literacy Council

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- Establishes the GA Literacy Council
- 30 members include appointments by Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker including:
  - Literacy and education specialists, local and state board of education members, local superintendents, library representation, legislators and dyslexia specialists are included in appointments
- Council will be attached to Governor's Office of Student Achievement



# Literacy Council Structure



# Responsibilities of the GA Literacy Council

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- Make recommendations on new and existing teacher training relating to evidence-based literacy instruction;
- Review community-based literacy programs and make recommendations for improvements;
- Review changes/updates to Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula to enhance literacy instruction;
- Review statewide birth-age 5 initiatives and suggest policy and budget changes;
- Provide a report to Governor, OPB, Speaker and Lt. Governor on the conditions, needs, issues and problems relating to state literacy outcomes; include recommendations for legislation and appropriations to support literacy outcomes (Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>).





# Birth to Five Subcommittee

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- Review and discuss current educational and literacy programs implemented in B-5 settings
- Research current literacy based professional training opportunities available to educators
- Compile a report of recommendations to support and enhance literacy instruction and experiences in B-5 settings



# HB 538 – Georgia Early Literacy Act

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## ***Teacher Literacy Training***

- Beginning July 1, 2025- DECAL shall require teachers in all programs (licensed or commissioned) to receive training on developmentally appropriate evidence-based literacy instruction.
- By July 1, 2025- All kindergarten through third grade teachers shall complete a training program developed or procured pursuant to this Code section.
- GaDOE shall develop or procure training programs for K-3 teachers on:
  - Science of reading,
  - Structured literacy,
  - Foundational literacy skills, and
  - Universal reading screeners to inform them about student needs



# Finance, Administration, & Nutrition Updates

*Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance & Administration*



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## Budget Comparison

Data as of June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Budget	Expenditures*	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
By Program				
Child Care Services	\$1,316,518,867	\$1,316,518,867	\$0	0%
Nutrition	\$159,097,107	\$159,097,107	\$0	0%
Pre-K + (HS)	\$416,912,154	\$398,262,305	\$18,649,849	4%
Quality Initiatives	\$50,745,344	\$50,745,344	\$0	0%
Totals	\$1,943,273,472	\$1,924,623,623	\$18,649,849	1%

By Fund Source				
State General	\$61,541,817	\$61,541,817	\$0	0%
State Lottery	\$408,900,881	\$390,251,032	\$18,649,849	5%
Federal	\$1,472,496,596	\$1,472,496,596	\$0	0%
Other	\$334,178	\$334,178	\$0	0%
Totals	\$1,943,273,472	\$1,924,623,623	\$18,649,849	1%

\* Includes encumbrances.

# Finance Update

## FY 2023 Q4 Budget Summary



## Upcoming Budget Requests

	Current FY24 Budget	Proposed AFY24 Budget	Change
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### By Program

Child Care Services	\$329,093,994	\$329,393,994	\$300,000
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,100,000	\$100,000
Pre-K + (HS)	\$443,965,064	\$452,310,253	\$8,345,189
Quality Initiatives	\$61,414,822	\$61,414,822	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$982,473,880</b>	<b>\$991,219,069</b>	<b>\$8,745,189</b>

### By Fund Source

State General	\$62,534,475	\$62,934,475	\$400,000
State Lottery	\$443,790,064	\$452,135,253	\$8,345,189
Federal	\$475,649,841	\$475,649,841	\$0
Other	\$499,500	\$499,500	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$982,473,880</b>	<b>\$991,219,069</b>	<b>\$8,745,189</b>

# Finance Update

## AFY 2024 Budget Request





# Summary of Decal Budget Request –AFY24

<b>State General Funds</b>	
GA Association for Infant Mental Health	\$300,000
Happy Helpings (SFSP) Startup Grants	\$100,000
<b>Total Request for State General Funds</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Lottery Funds</b>	
Literacy Kits	\$8,100,000
Add Three Positions:	\$95,828
Two positions to support Georgia’s Pre-K providers in grant operations including payments, student data, and teacher credentials	
One position to support the Georgia’s Pre-K providers in the implementation of the Pre-K Summer Transition Program	
Pre-K IT Equipment Refresh	\$149,361
<b>Total Request for Lottery Funds</b>	<b>\$8,345,189</b>
<b>Total DECAL Request for State General and Lottery Funds</b>	<b>\$8,745,189</b>



## Upcoming Budget Requests

	Current FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	Change
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### By Program

Child Care Services	\$329,093,994	\$330,970,028	\$1,876,034
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,000,000	\$0
Pre-K + (HS)	\$443,965,064	\$444,348,375	\$383,311
Quality Initiatives	\$61,414,822	\$61,414,822	\$0
Totals	\$982,473,880	\$984,733,225	\$2,259,345

### By Fund Source

State General	\$62,534,475	\$64,410,509	\$1,876,034
State Lottery	\$443,790,064	\$444,173,375	\$383,311
Federal	\$475,649,841	\$475,649,841	\$0
Other	\$499,500	\$499,500	\$0
Totals	\$982,473,880	\$984,733,225	\$2,259,345

# Finance Update

## FY 2025 Budget Request

**(3% Increase Scenario)**



# Summary of Decal Budget Request –FY25 3%

## State General Funds

State Funds for increasing CAPS rates to 50th Percentile \$1,876,034

**Total Request for State General Funds \$1,876,034**

## Lottery Funds

Add Three Positions: \$383,311

Two positions to support Georgia’s Pre-K providers in grant operations including payments, student data, and teacher credentials

One position to support the Georgia’s Pre-K providers in the implementation of the Pre-K Summer Transition Program

**Total Request for Lottery Funds \$383,311**

**Total DECAL Request for State General and Lottery Funds \$2,259,345**



## Upcoming Budget Requests

	Current FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	Change
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### By Program

Child Care Services	\$329,093,994	\$328,468,649	\$(625,345)
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,000,000	\$0
Pre-K + (HS)	\$443,965,064	\$443,837,294	\$(127,770)
Quality Initiatives	\$61,414,822	\$61,414,822	\$0
Totals	\$982,473,880	\$981,720,765	\$(753,115)

### By Fund Source

State General	\$62,534,475	\$61,909,130	\$(625,345)
State Lottery	\$443,790,064	\$443,662,294	\$(127,770)
Federal	\$475,649,841	\$475,649,841	\$0
Other	\$499,500	\$499,500	\$0
Totals	\$982,473,880	\$981,720,765	\$(753,115)

# Finance Update

## FY 2025 Budget Request

**(1% Decrease Scenario)**



# Summary of Decal Budget Request – FY25 ↓ 1%

<b>State General Funds</b>	
Reduce CAPS scholarships by 125	\$(625,345)
<b>Lottery Funds</b>	
Reduce Contracts	\$(127,770)
<b>Total DECAL Request for State General and Lottery Funds</b>	<b>\$(753,115)</b>







# Happy Helpings Events

- Nutrition Services Division partnered with Happy Helpings sponsors to host events promoting the importance of combining good nutrition with physical activity.
- Events held in June with Rabun County Family Connection and Bryan County Board of Commissioners to officially kick-off the summer meals season.
- Spike event held in July with Bread of Life Development Ministries to remind families that summer meals are available until school starts.
- Along with multiple physical activities that included bean bags, hula hoops, jump ropes and hopscotch, children enjoyed a nutritious meal, stay hydrated with a hydration station that included fruit and herb infused water, and taste-tested Georgia grown fruits and vegetables. Nutrition education materials were also provided.



# Farm to School Grant

- USDA awards competitive Farm to School grants that support planning, developing, and implementing farm to school programs.
- Nutrition Services was awarded \$154,872 from USDA plus a state match of \$51,624 (\$206,496 total) to implement four initiatives:
  1. Implement a two-year long Farm to ECE Procurement Grant program to support select CACFP sites and farmers in local procurement through workshops, technical assistance, grant funds, certifications, and mentorship;
  2. Co-host the 9th Farm to School and ECE Summit alongside Georgia Organics at three different locations across the state;
  3. Partner with the Black Child Development Institute to create an Early Childhood Wellness Toolkit with developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive activities connected to Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Farm to ECE; and
  4. Partner with Small Bites Adventure Club to provide high-quality, monthly turn-key food education resources and recipes, family engagement programming, and professional development for ECE educators.



# Federal Programs Updates

*Elisabetta Kasfir, Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs*



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# Access and Family Fee Updates



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# ACCESS

Awarding Child Care Education Scholarship Supplements

# September 2024

- ⚙️ **ACCESS** has been extended through September 2024.
- ⚙️ CAPS will continue to pay the full cost of tuition minus the family fee.
- ⚙️ Families will begin paying their family fee in October 2023.
- ⚙️ A 4.3% increase will be applied to participating CAPS providers' published rate in January 2024.



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# Ongoing Communication for Access

## Families

- Family Letter
- Renewal Process
- Scholarship Award Letter

## Providers

- Provider Letter
- Provider Webinar on July 20, 2023

200 + providers attended the webinar!





# CAPS Rate Increase

In January 2024, a 4.3% increase will be applied to participating CAPS providers' published rate used to calculate ACCESS payments.





# CAPS Expansion



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# CAPS Expansion



Expanded CAPS eligibility income limits in order to achieve this



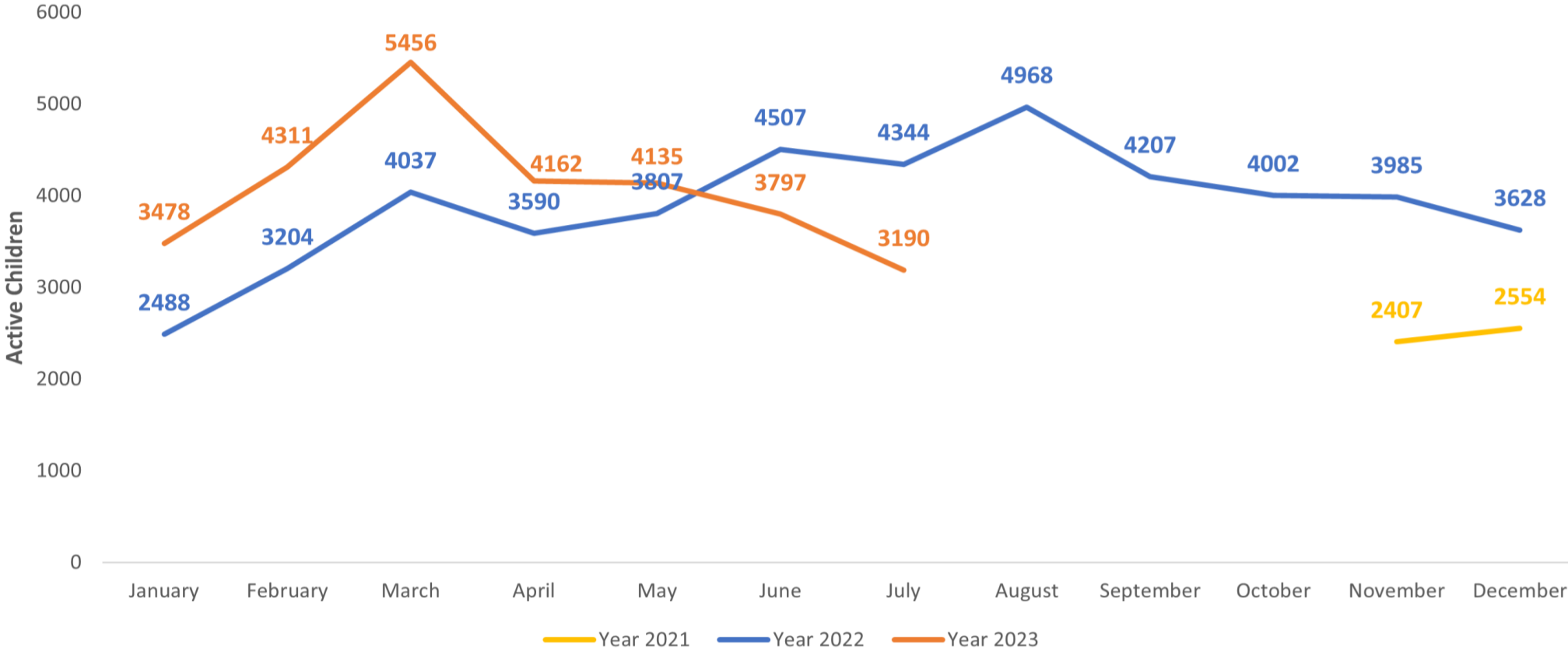
Initiative extends through September 2024



ARPA used to fund CAPS Expansion



# Approved Children



## CAPS Expansion Goal and Metrics

### Goal

Increase the number of children served by CAPS by 10,000 beginning November 2021

### Achievement

Currently serving over 70,000 children, an increase of over 20,000 from typical service levels

# CAPS Provider Relations



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# Provider Relations Structure



Enrollment Services



Provider Support



Quality Assurance and Payments



Education and Outreach



# Provider Relations Implementation Goals



**Modernize**

Reliability of provider payments and management of providers

**Enhance**

Enhance customer service

**Increase**

Increase quality and compliance



# Provider Relations

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## **Vision:**

The CAPS experience for child care providers is optimized by coordinating the services of DECAL programs, innovating systems, and providing unparalleled customer support.

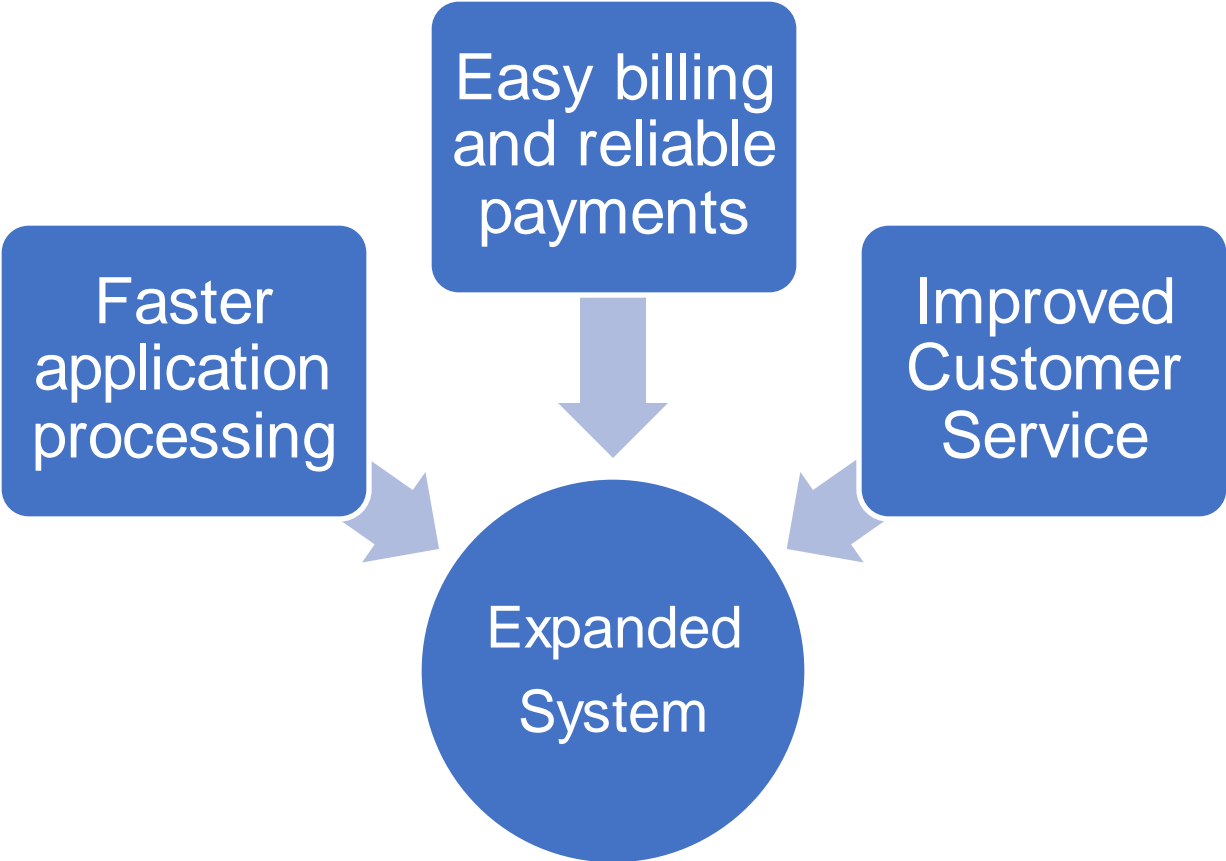
## **Mission:**

CAPS Provider Relations promotes and supports provider participation in the CAPS program to help families access high quality child care and reach their educational and career goals.





# New Payment & Provider Management System



# Student Parent Pilot



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# Student Parent Priority Group: By the Numbers

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1 of 5 CAPS Applicants identify as Student Parents



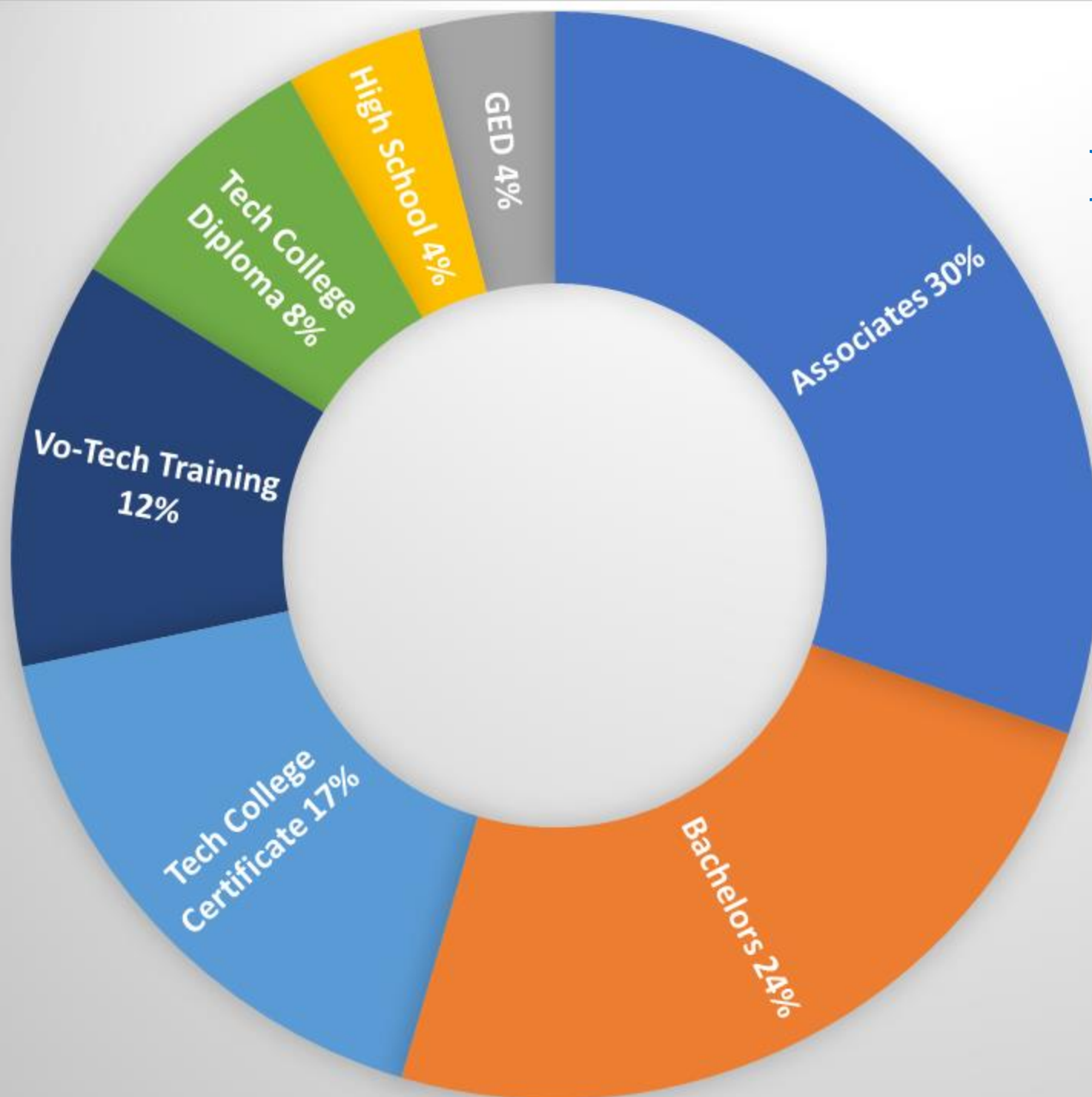
Since May 2022, over 16,000 Student Parents have applied for CAPS



42% of Student Parent CAPS applications have been approved

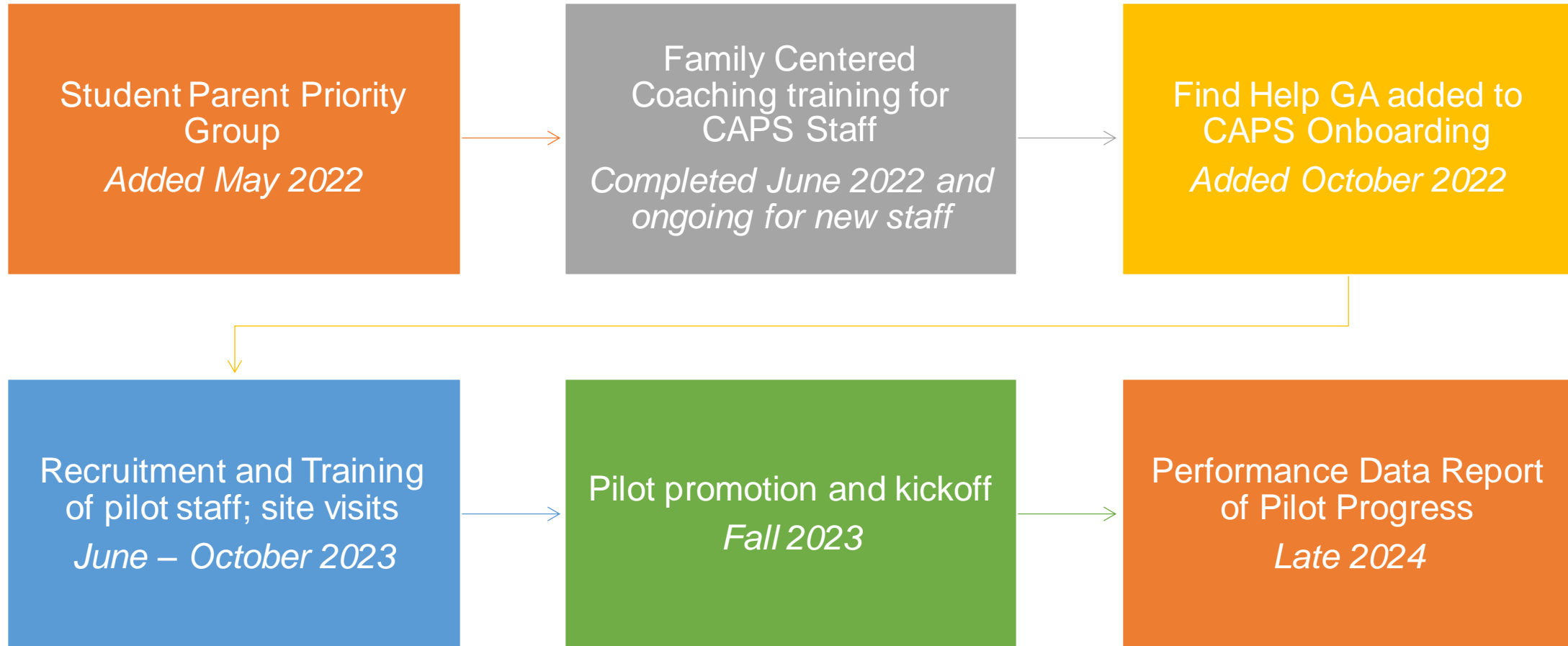


# Student Parent Educational Paths



- Associates
- Bachelors
- GED
- High School
- Middle School
- Tech College Certificate
- Tech College Diploma
- Vo-Tech Training

# Student Parent Pilot Initiative Timeline



# Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports Updates

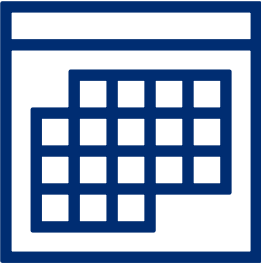
*Susan Adams, Deputy Commissioner for Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports*



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# Summer Transition Program 2023

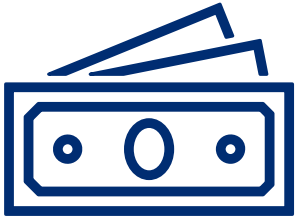
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5 week  
program



Reduced  
Class Size



Salary  
Increase for  
Teachers

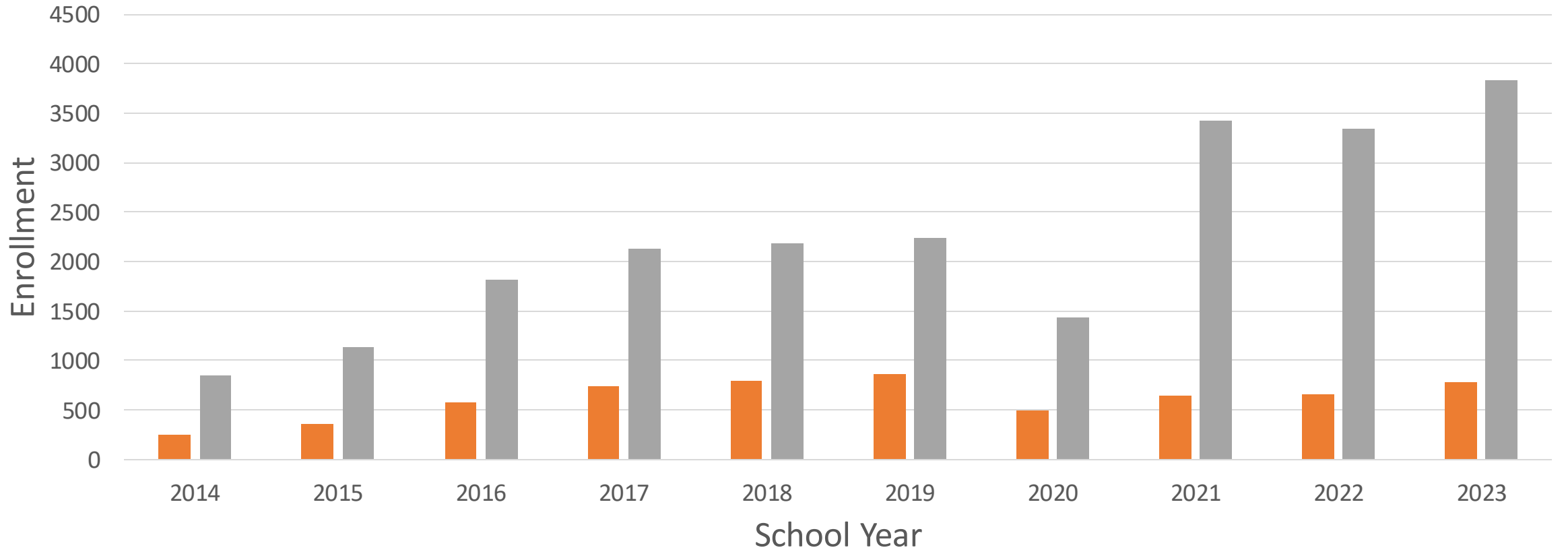


Funded  
Through  
GEER and  
Lottery





# Summer Transition Program 2023



■ Rising Pre-K    ■ Rising Kindergarten





“The Rising K Summer Transition Program had exceeded my expectations. What the children have been able to achieve with the extended days has been eye-opening. The need for the program is obvious, and the selection process is spot on to ensure the kids that need it most have first priority.”

Christal Nelson  
Pre-K Director, Putnam County





# SEEDS Helpline, Infant Toddler Program, and Pyramid Model Training

*Rebecca Ellis, Director of Practice and Support Services*



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# SEEDS for Success Helpline

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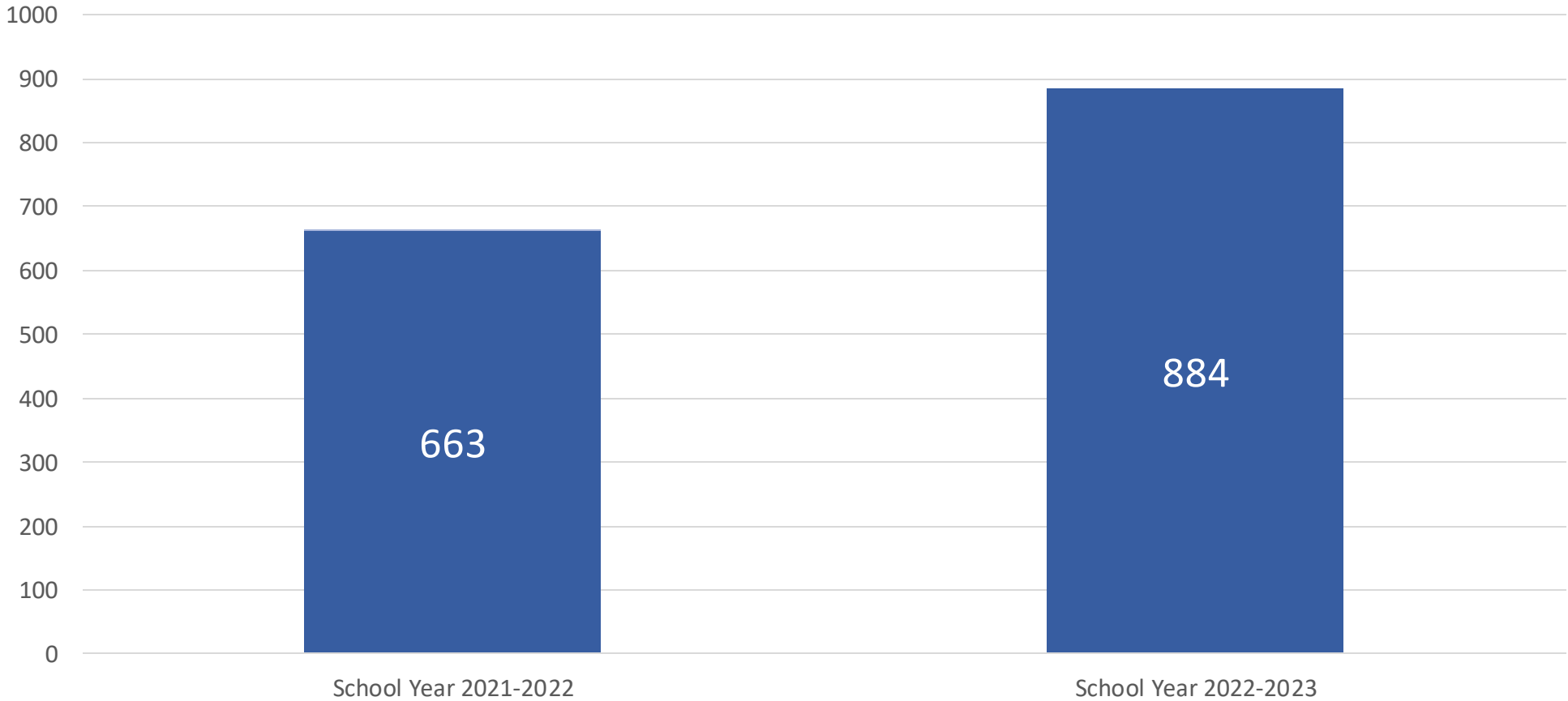
- Operated by DECAL's Inclusion and Behavior Support Unit
- Provides resources, referrals, training and coaching for early childhood educators and families around inclusion, social-emotional development, and challenging behavior
- Over the past year:
  - Hired a SEEDS Helpline Coordinator
  - Strengthened collaboration with other DECAL divisions and partner agencies

**1.833.354.HELP**  
GEORGIA SEEDS for SUCCESS



# SEEDS for Success Helpline: School Year 2022-2023

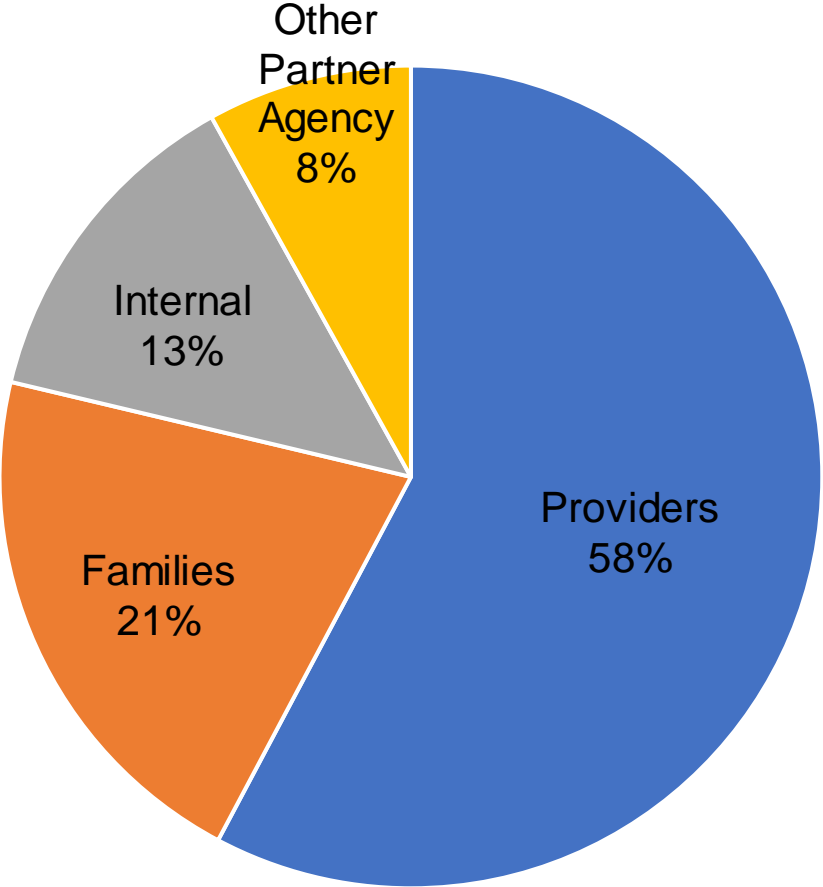
Helpline requests **increased 33%** from School Year 2022 to School Year 2023



# SEEDS for Success Helpline: School Year 2022-2023

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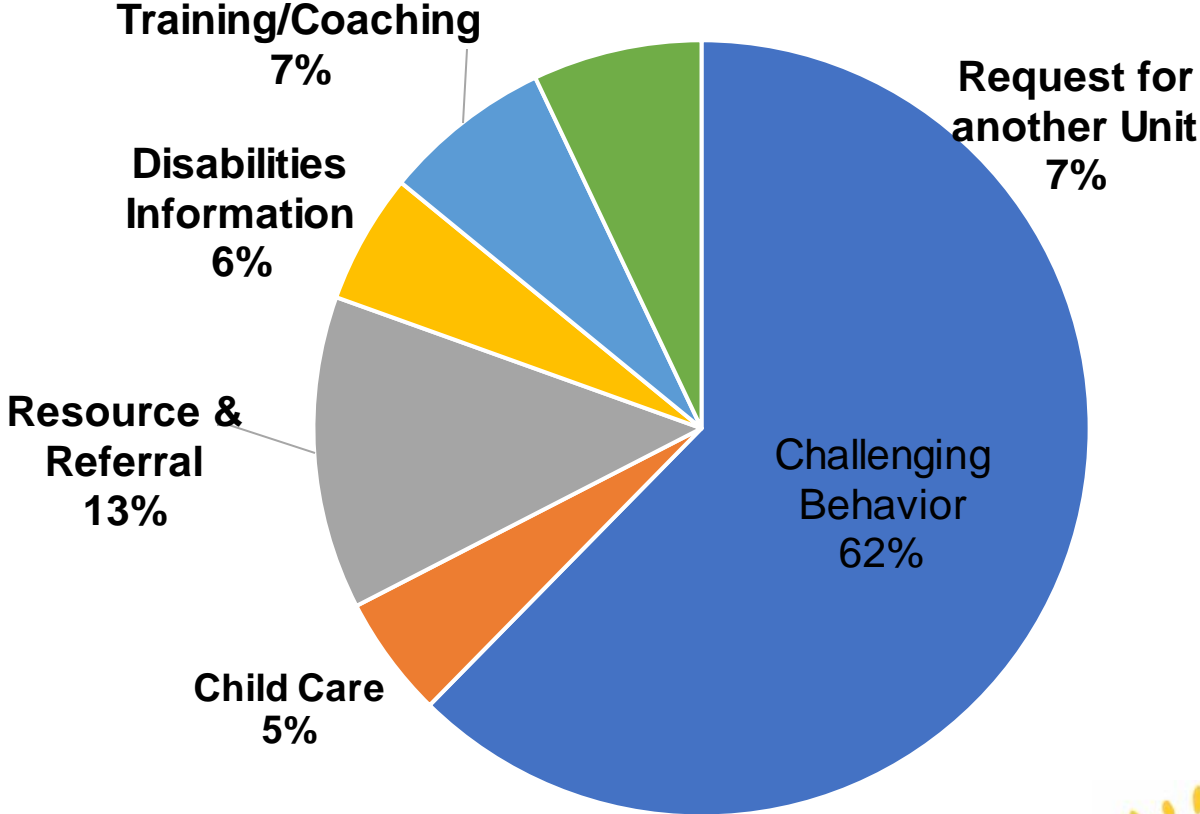
Most Helpline requests were from **early childhood providers**, followed by **families**



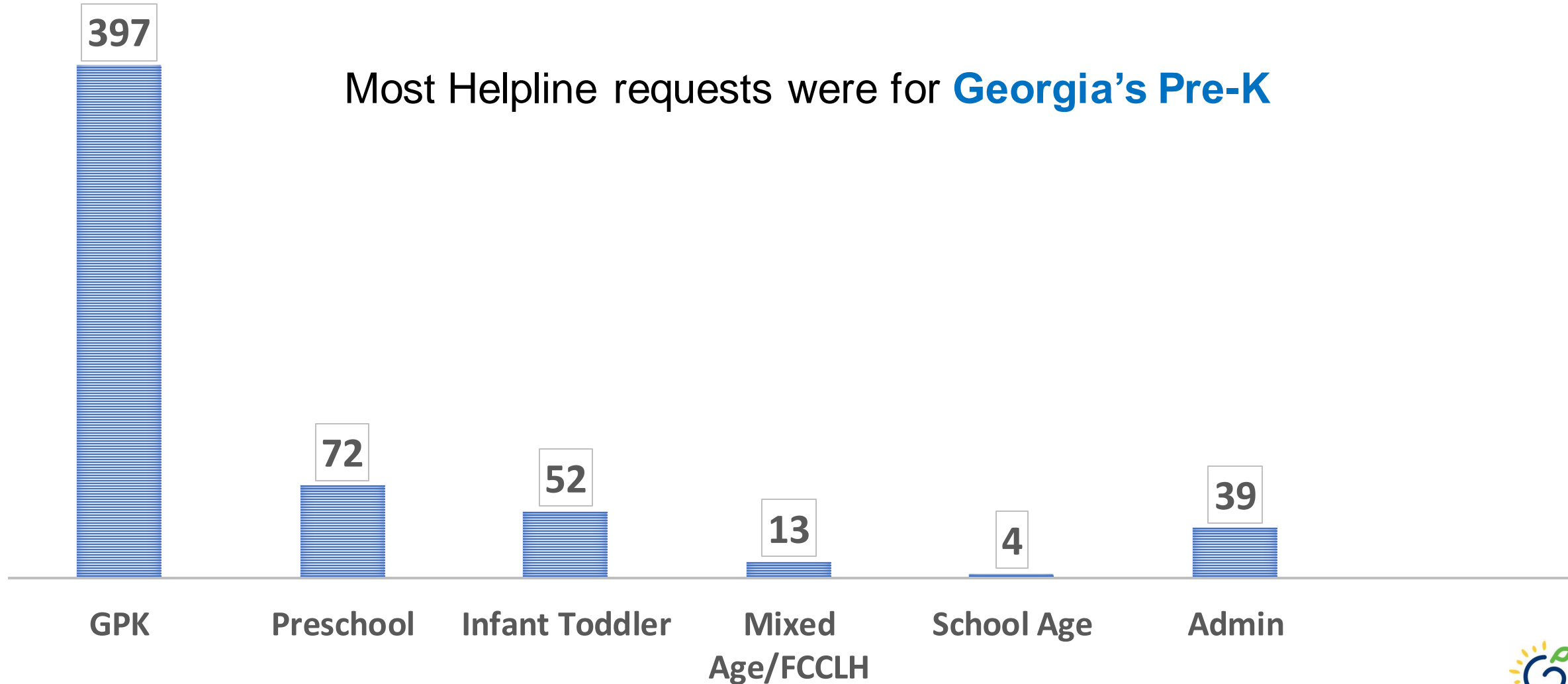


# SEEDS for Success Helpline: School Year 2022-2023

Most Helpline requests were related to **challenging behavior**

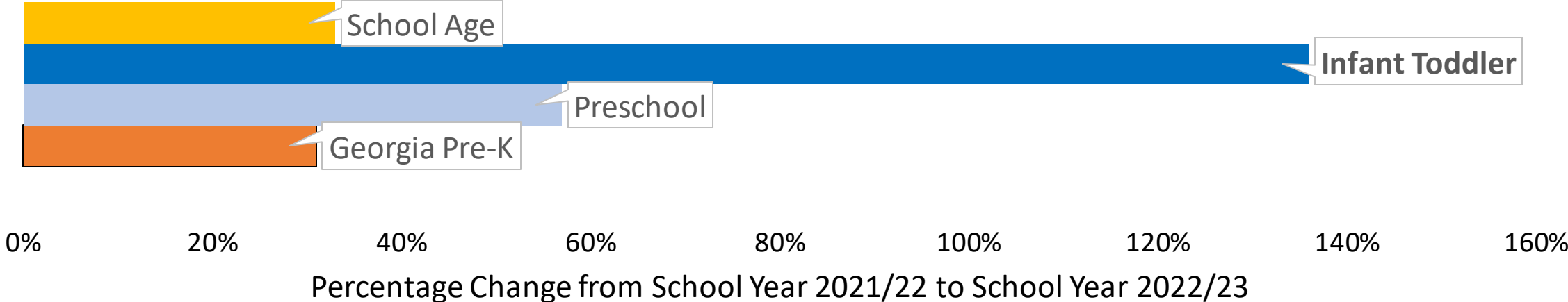


# SEEDS for Success Helpline: School Year 2022-2023



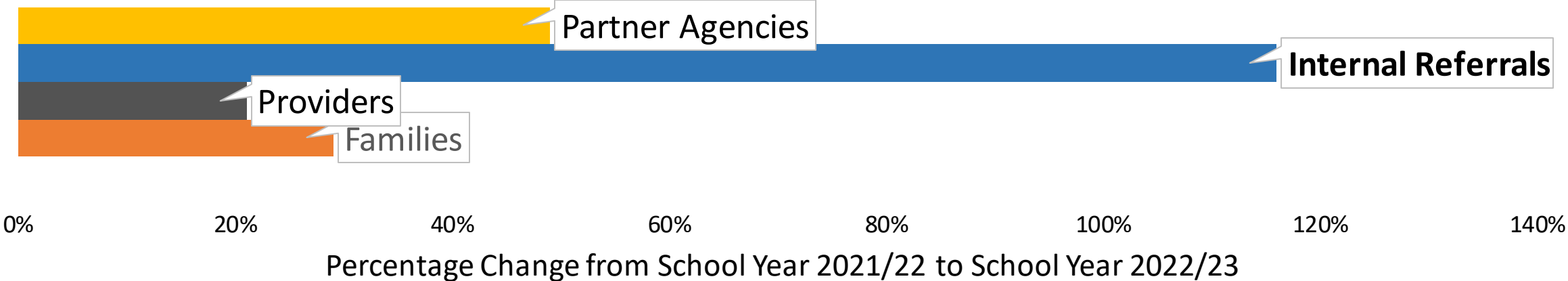
# SEEDS for Success Helpline: School Year 2022-2023

Helpline calls for **infants and toddlers** more than doubled from School Year 2022 to 2023



# SEEDS for Success Helpline: School Year 2022-2023

**Internal referrals** more than doubled from School Year 2022 to School Year 2023



# Helpline Impact

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87%

**of callers were satisfied or very satisfied with the Helpline**

75%

**of callers received the result they needed from calling the Helpline**

82%

**would recommend the Helpline to others**

*“With the level of behavioral concerns the best thing that SEEDS did was respond at once. After I called the hotline I got a call the same day, and a person set up time the next day.”*

*- Center Director*



# Pyramid Model Training Series

- The [Pyramid Model](#) is a framework of evidence-based practices for promoting young children's **healthy social and emotional development**
- DECAL is utilizing federal recovery funds to provide Pyramid Model training to the early learning workforce
  - Directors/ Administrators/ Principals
  - Infant, Toddler, Preschool & Pre-K teachers
- Training includes online e-modules and professional learning community sessions





# Pyramid Model Training Series

- Participants receive a \$500 stipend and \$175 in Class Wallet funds to purchase Pyramid Model materials
- Participating centers will have the opportunity to receive additional on site coaching from an Inclusion and Behavior Support Specialist
- Child Trends is conducting an evaluation of the training series



# Pyramid Model Training Series: Year 1 Pilot

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48

**Administrators from  
Private and Public  
Pre-K Programs**

200+

**Infant, Toddler,  
Preschool & Pre-K  
Teachers**

21

**Programs  
participating**

63

**DECAL Specialists  
Facilitating Sessions**



# Pyramid Model Training Series: Initial Feedback

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- Administrators found the PLCs valuable
- Administrators were excited for their teachers to complete the training
- Administrators felt the modules prepared them for the PLCs



# Pyramid Model Training Series: Next Steps

## September 2023

Finish Teacher Pilot  
Gather feedback  
from teachers and  
specialists

## December 2024 – April 2024:

Adapt training based  
on teacher feedback  
Second Teacher  
Cohort

## September 2023 – December 2024

Adapt training based  
on administrator  
feedback  
Second Administrator  
Cohort



# Break

*Ten Minutes*



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# Quality Innovations and Partnerships Updates

*Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships*



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# Economic Impact Study

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- Follows earlier studies from 2008 and 2016
  - Will be divided into multiple phases to help understand the impact of COVID-19 and COVID-19 relief funds
- Report 1 will be released by September 30, 2023
  - Uses 2019 as a baseline
  - Compares gross receipts between 2019 and 2020; more detailed impact analyses in later reports
  - Includes a chapter detailing DECAL's 2020 pandemic response



# Data Used in Economic Impact Study

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- DECAL administrative data
- STABLE Phase 1 and 2 application data
- 2021 Georgia Market Rate Survey
- US Census Bureau population data
- Georgia Department of Labor wage and employment data



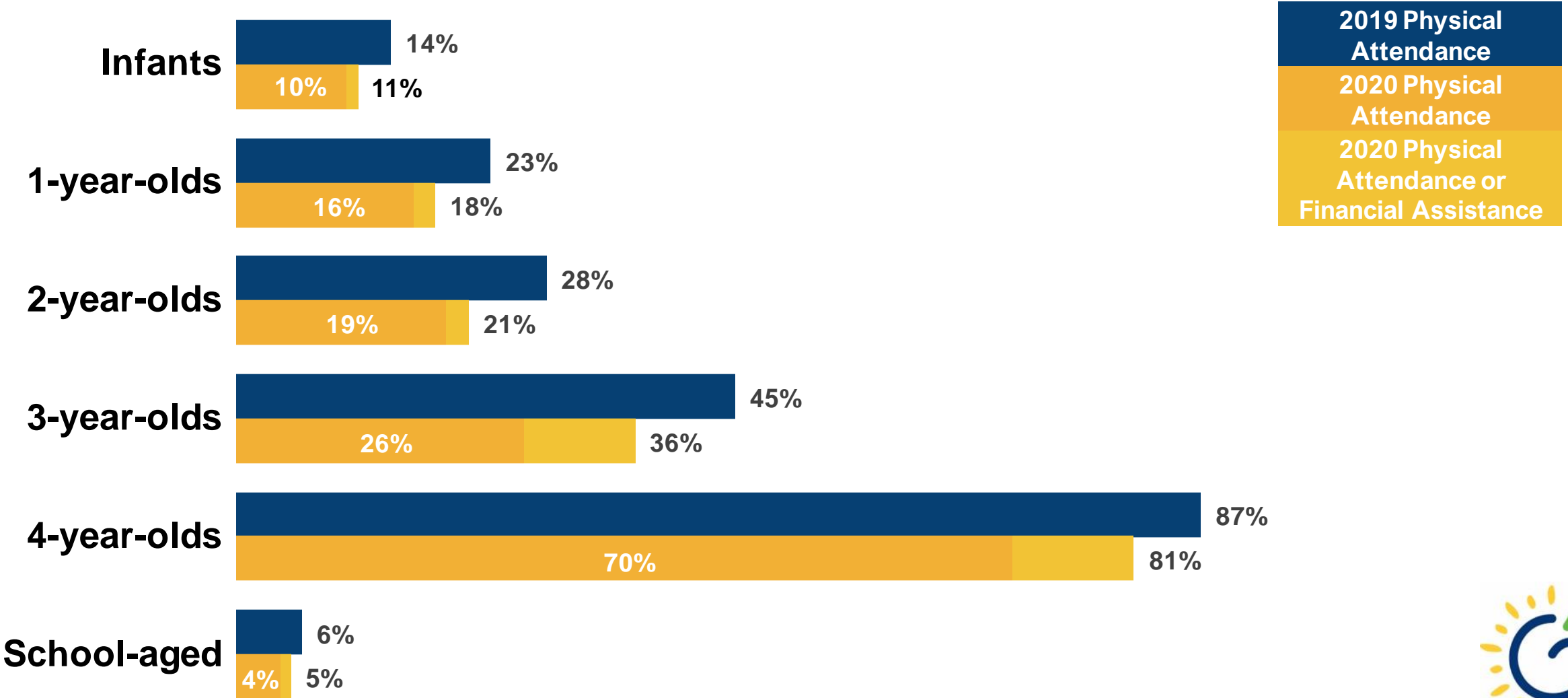
# Percent Change in Providers

Average annual decline in providers remains relatively consistent since 2016.

2016 to 2019 Average Annual % Change		2019 to 2020 Annual % Change
-0.8%	<b>Center</b>	-0.9%
-9.4%	<b>Family</b>	-6.6%
—	<b>School-Based Pre-K</b>	-0.9%



# Estimated % of Population Served by Age, 2019 and 2020



**2019 Physical Attendance**

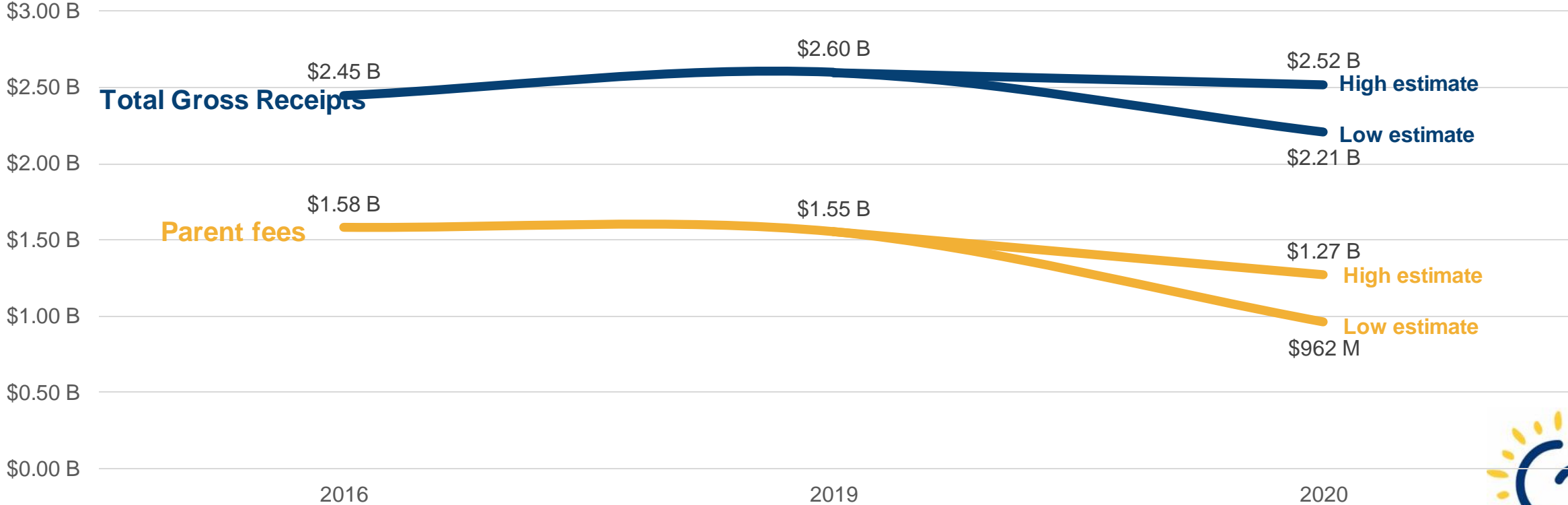
**2020 Physical Attendance**

**2020 Physical Attendance or Financial Assistance**

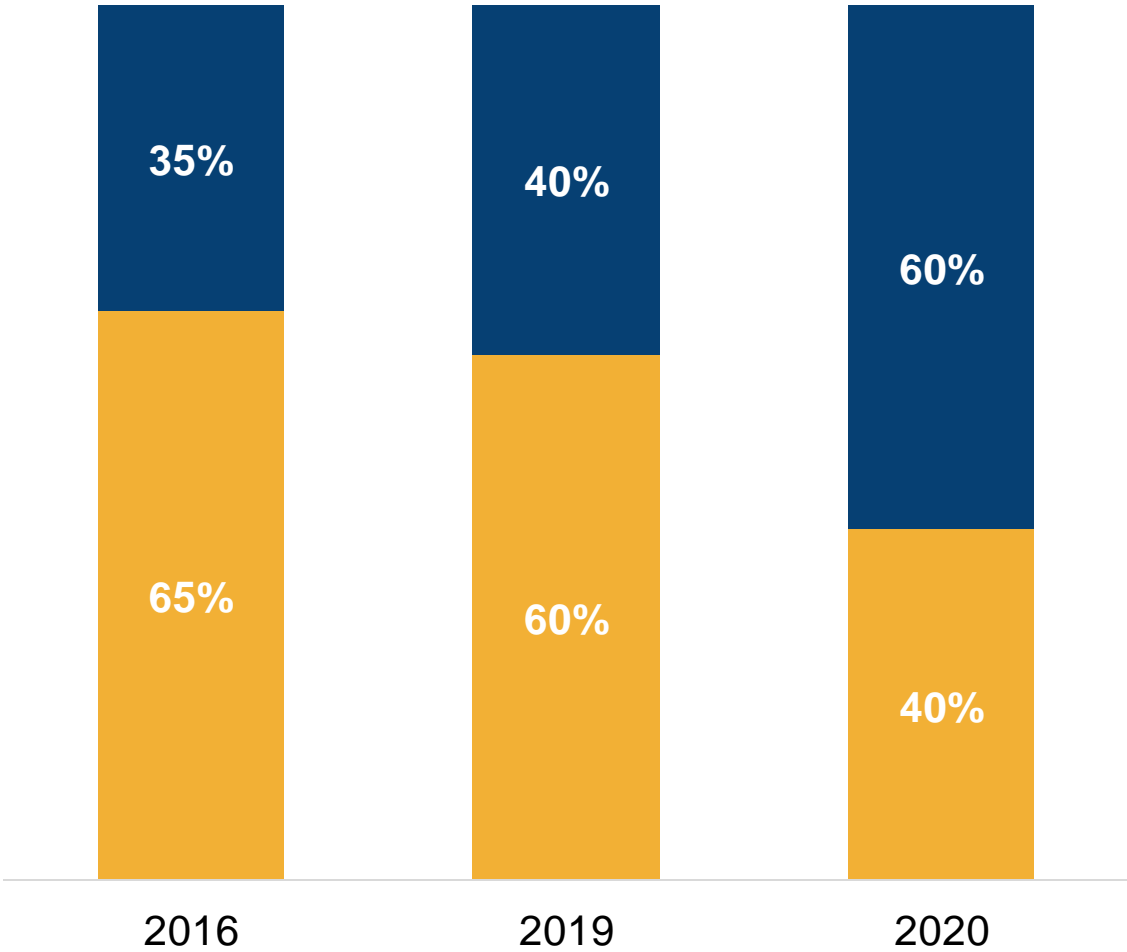


# Change in Gross Receipts

Gross Receipts: Sum of parent fees and federal, state, and local payments to programs



# Change in Gross Receipts



The reduction in the proportion of **parent fees** to **federal and state** funding is a key finding related to the impact of the pandemic.





# Change in Gross Receipts

Source	2019	2020	Percent Change
Federal CAPS-related funding	\$286M	\$301M	5.2%
Head Start and Early Head Start	\$237M	\$262M	10.5%
Georgia's Pre-K Program	\$341M	\$360M	5.5%
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$131M	\$102M	-22.1%
Summer Food Service Program	\$15M	\$28M	86.7%
COVID response funding – total:		\$201M	
STABLE phase 1		\$39M	
STABLE phase 2		\$53M	
Paycheck Protection Program (for NAICS Code 624410)		\$84M	
CAPS Emergency Payment Policy		\$20M	
SOLVE Scholarship Program		\$3M	
Essential Services Workforce		\$3M	
<b>Total state and federal funding</b>	<b>\$1.01B</b>	<b>\$1.25B</b>	<b>23.8%</b>
<b>Total parent fees</b>	<b>\$1.55B</b>	<b>\$0.96B to \$1.27B (est.)</b>	<b>-38.1% to -18.1% (est.)</b>
<b>Annual gross receipts</b>	<b>\$2.56B</b>	<b>\$2.21B to \$2.52B (est.)</b>	<b>-13.7% to -1.6% (est.)</b>

# COVID-19 Impact

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**“The pandemic had a sharp and lingering impact on employment and wages during 2020.** While employment followed the same pattern as enrollment, dropping dramatically in late March of 2020 and slowly improving, it never fully recovered. For instance, **by December 2020, employment was still down approximately 18% from pre-pandemic levels** and had still not fully recovered by the end of 2021 (which will be explored further in future phases of this research). **Wages were also lower, down \$3,200 annually** on average from 2019 to 2020.”

“DECAL’s efforts during the first nine months of the pandemic to support the industry were **instrumental in keeping businesses afloat** and **providing resources** to families and providers.”



# EXPAND Grants — Expanding Parents' Access to Nontraditional Delivery

- Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act
- Designed to address child care needs during nontraditional hours, such as evenings, overnight, early mornings, weekends and variable shift schedules
- Three types of grants:



## 1. EXPAND Grants for Licensed Child Care Providers

- Award Amount: \$50,000 – \$500,000
- Number of Grantees: 3 – 5



## 2. EXPAND Grants for For-Profit Businesses

- Award Amount: \$100,000 – \$750,000
- Number of Grantees: 3 – 4

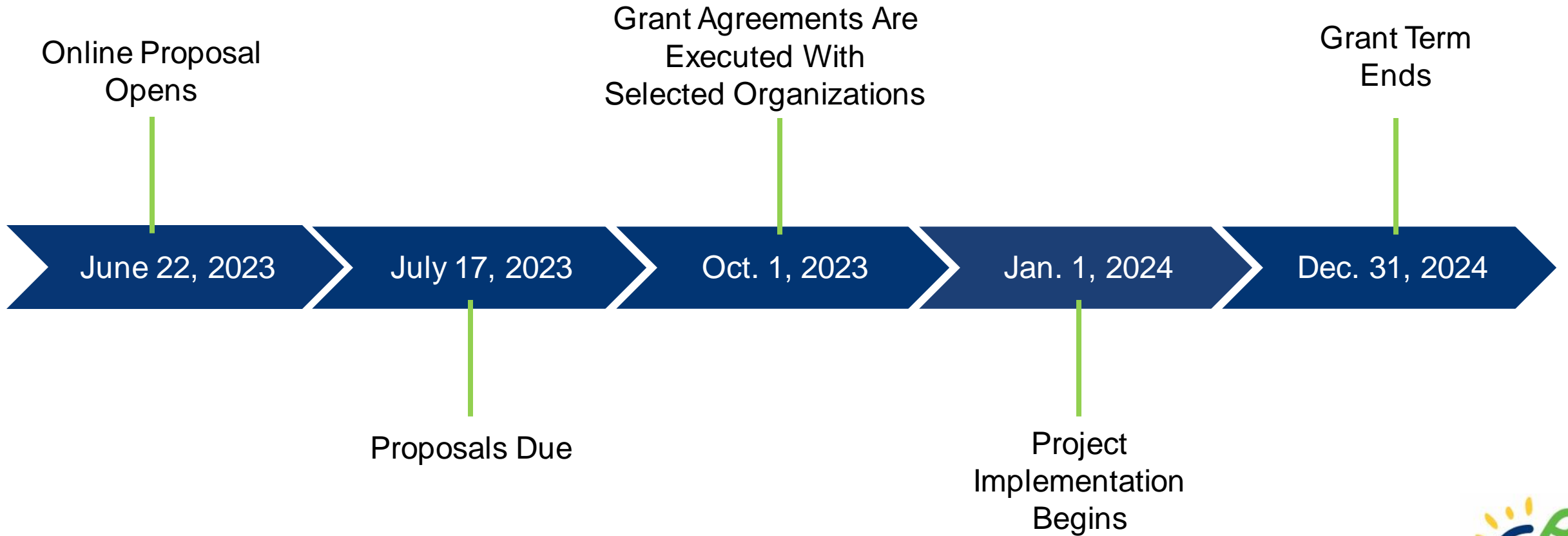


## 3. EXPAND Collaborative Grants for Government Entities and Nonprofit Organizations

- Award Amount: \$100,000 – \$750,000
- Number of Grantees: 3 – 4



# EXPAND Grants Timeline



# Thriving Child Care Business Academy

*Sonja Steptoe, QIP Communications and Outreach Manager*



**Georgia Dept  
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# Thriving Child Care Business Academy



**DECAL**  
**Thriving Child Care**  
**Business Academy**

**An online platform of free training and materials to help child care facility owners and administrators acquire the knowledge, skills, and tools to thrive and become self-sustaining as their financial supports wind down.**

Helping organizations thrive  
**CIVITAS**  
STRATEGIES

 **UNIVERSITY OF**  
**GEORGIA**  
Small Business  
Development Center



**NATIONAL CENTER ON**  
Early Childhood Quality Assurance





# Thriving Child Care Business Academy

## Free Virtual Training & Online Resources

### Live Large-Group Classes

- Basics of Business Management & Financial Planning; Recruiting & Retaining Staff; Marketing; and Leadership
- Some Classes in English & Spanish
- Training Hours Credits Available

### Individual Coaching

One-on-One Technical Assistance Tailored to Specific Needs



### Small Study Groups

- Groups of up to 10 Providers Who Have Mastered the Basics and Want Intensive, Focused Training
- Deep Dives into Selected Business Topics
- Training Hours Credits & Stipends Available

### Self-Study Library

Print & Video Guides on 50+ Business Topics in English & Spanish

### Needs Assessment

Interviews and Focus Groups with providers and stakeholders to understand needs & shape training content

### Child Care Business Model Study

Research will examine evolving GA child care ownership landscape to give DECAL more insight into industry needs & economic impact



# Child Care Services Updates

*Pam Stevens, Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services*



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# School-Age Grants 2023

*Brittany Sams, CCS Director of Administrative Services and Special Operations*



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# School-Age Grants 2023

- Any provider that currently served school-age children or had served school-age children within the past year was eligible to spend awarded amounts on school-age specific materials.
- Launched February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Funded through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA).



# Award Amounts

- Based on a Childcare Learning Center's license capacity
- Family Childcare Learning Homes \$1075

Licensed Capacity	Awarded Amount
1-25	\$1720
26-50	\$2150
51-100	\$2795
101-200	\$3440
200 and above	\$4300



# School-Age Grants ClassWallet



CLASSWALLET



- ClassWallet is an online digital wallet
- Provided a tool that allowed DECAL to give access to selected programs to make "rule-based" purchases
- Awarded funds to providers as directed by DECAL
- Monitored orders to ensure appropriate items were purchased
- Generated reports on spending



# School-Age Grants Rule Based Purchases



- Providers were only allowed to purchase items from selected vendors
- Vendors were selected based on the ability to search for items by age or grade level
- Providers were only allowed to purchase items that were rated for Kindergarten and up or 5 years of age and up



# Georgia ASYD Quality Standards

The School-Age Grant focused on Quality Element 3: Environment and Climate

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE:**

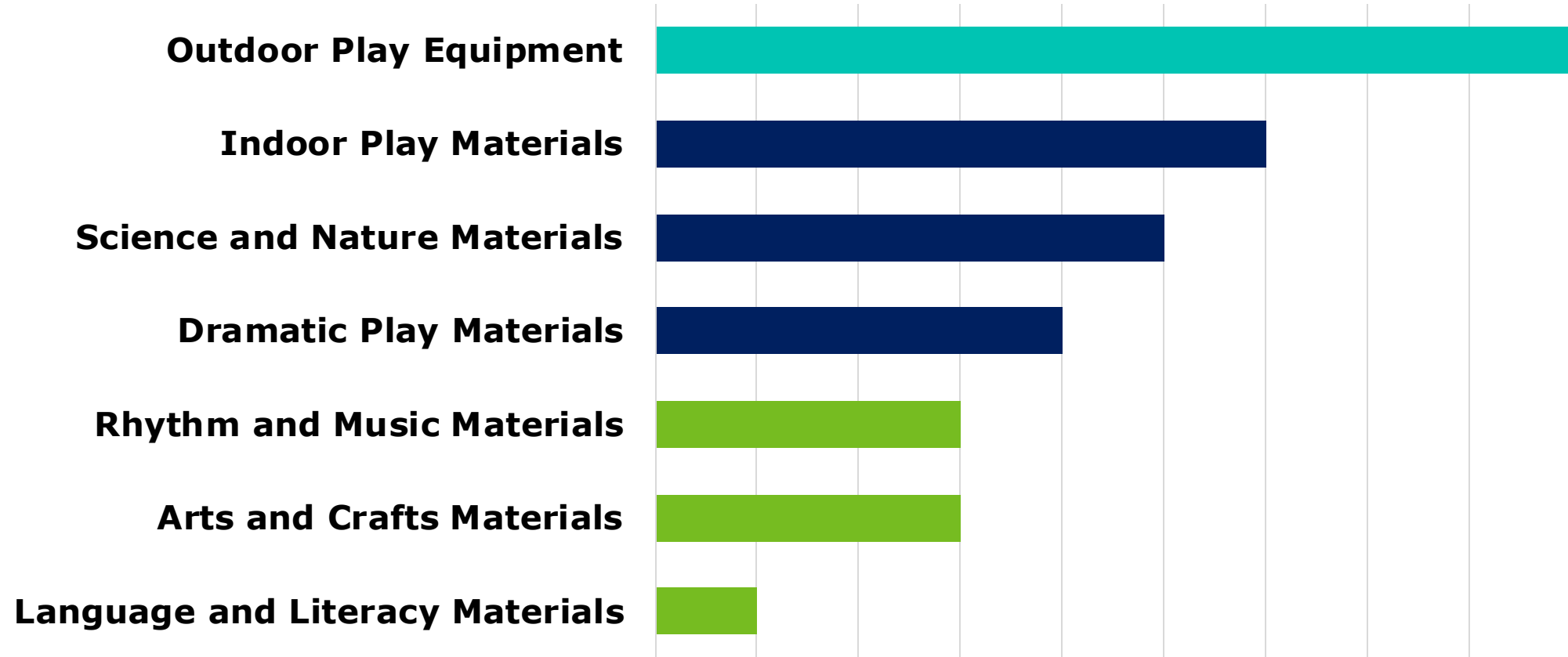
**A quality program provides a safe, clean, and developmentally appropriate environment that meets the physical needs of all youth; supports best practice programming and reflects the needs and interests of youth.**

- Ensures that the space, equipment, and materials are suitable for the ages and skill levels of youth and meet the program's needs
- Offers frequent access to nature and/or an outdoor space when possible
- Has a physical environment that reflects the work and interests of youth and the program's activities



# Previous data from providers: Most needed items for School-Age Programs

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# School-Age Grants

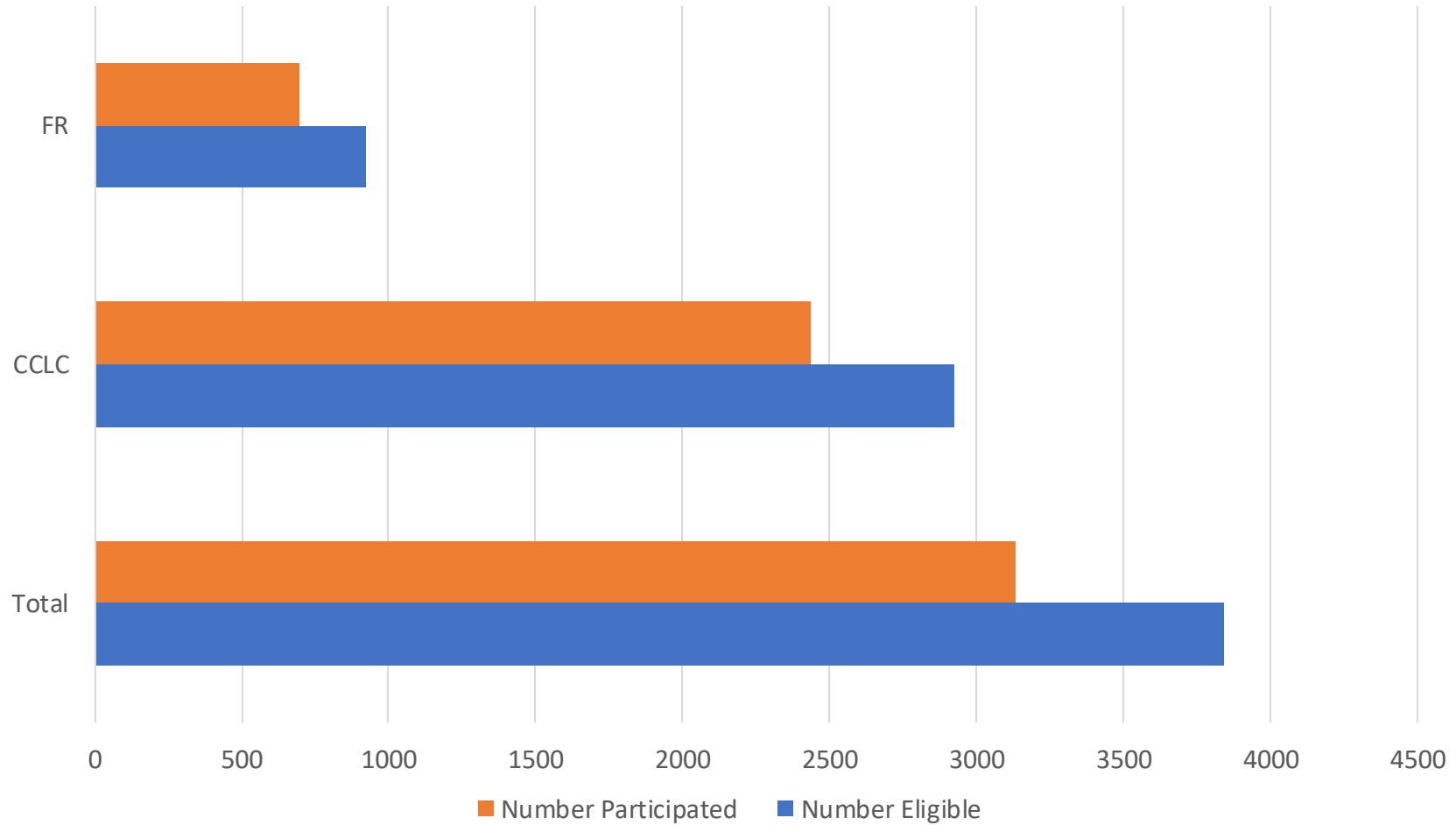
## Top Categories for purchases:

- Arts and craft supplies
- Variety of playground equipment, toys and activities
- Games (card games/board games)
- Storage items

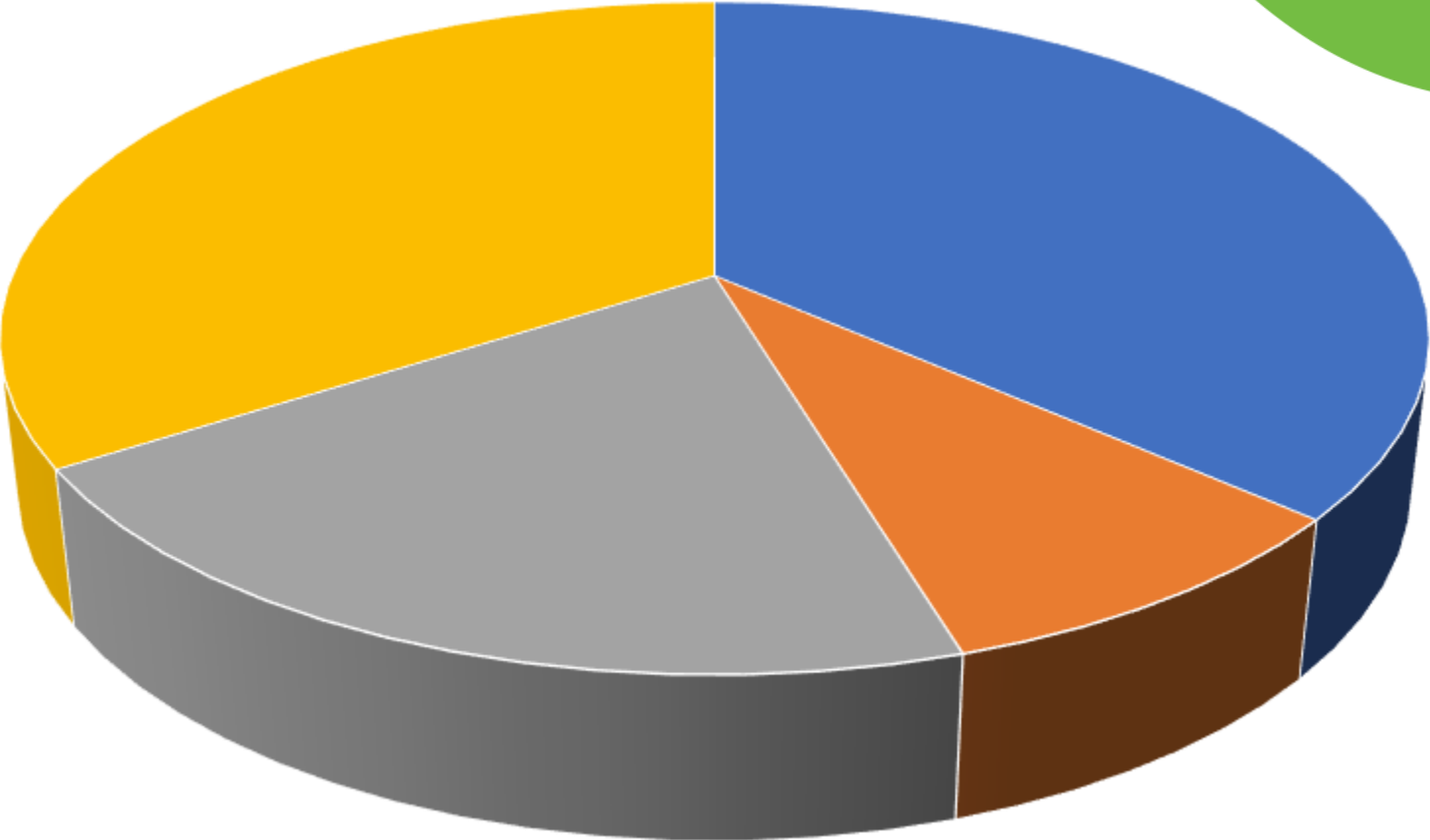




# School-Age Grants Participation



# Vendors



■ Discount School Supply ■ Home Depot ■ Kaplan ■ Lakeshore

Total funds utilized  
\$10,161,272.00



# Grant Feedback

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**“The School Age grant allowed over 50+ YMCA Afterschool programs to enhance their program quality with new or replacing supplies. Thank you, DECAL!”**

**“The variety of supplies we were able to get has provided more options for the students to explore and we've been able to add a number of math- and science-based activities and games.”**

**"The kids love the sensory calm-down area we created with the new supplies. It's really helped the kids who need a break and also the kids who are new to the program and are feeling overwhelmed."**

**“The grant allowed us to replenish the day-to-day necessities our program relies on to be successful.”**

**"Having a portable whiteboard has been a game-changer for being able to support our students with their homework and lead group activities.”**





**Child Care Services  
Proposed Rule  
Revisions  
October 1, 2023**



**Georgia Dept  
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BRIGHT FROM THE START

# Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers

## 591-1-1-

.07(2) Immediately notify Parent(s) and obtain specific instructions until child can be picked up or returned to group.

When professional medical attention is required,  
or

When child experiences symptoms of moderate discomfort such as elevated temperature, vomiting or diarrhea,

or

When child is involved in an incident that puts their health and/or safety at risk (e.g., missing from program, left on vehicle, escaped from building/playground, etc.)

DECAL proposes to amend this rule chapter to increase health and safety awareness for parents that have children in care and require programs to immediately notify parents in the event that a child is involved in an incident that puts their health and/or safety at risk. This could include situations such as, but not limited to, the child becomes missing from the program, the child escapes the building or playground, the child is left on a vehicle, etc.



# Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers

## 591-1-1-

.16(g) False or Misleading Information. The application for a License or Permit, including the Records Check Application, must be truthfully and fully completed. In the event that the Department has reason to believe that the application has not been completed truthfully, it may require additional verification of the facts alleged. The Department may refuse to issue or revoke a License or Permit where false statements have been made in connection with the application or any other documents ~~required by~~ submitted to the Department..

DECAL proposes to amend this rule chapter to add language to more accurately align with language in O.C.G.A. § 20-1A-1*et seq* that would allow the Department to revoke a program's license in the event that false or misleading information is submitted.



# Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers

## 591-1-1-

.36(7)(c)3. The driver or other designated Staff person shall also document in writing the dates and the departure/arrival times for all types of transportation on the passenger transportation checklist as follows: School Transportation - each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center. Home Transportation - each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center. Field Trip Transportation- each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center.

DECAL proposes to amend this rule chapter to clarify requirements to help providers understand what is needed to meet the intent of the rule and add language that requires the documentation of the dates transportation is conducted by or on behalf of the program.



# Rules and Regulations for Family Child Care Learning Homes

## 290-2-3-

~~.11(1)(b) Parents of any Child who becomes ill or is injured while in care shall be notified immediately of any illness or injury requiring professional medical attention, or any illness which may not require professional medical attention but which produces symptoms causing moderate discomfort to the Child, such as, but not limited to, any of the following: elevated temperature, vomiting or diarrhea.~~

Parental Notification. Parents must be notified of incidents, illnesses, or injuries as follows:

### Notification

### When

Immediately notify Parent(s) and obtain specific instructions until child can be picked up or returned to group.

When professional medical attention is required, or  
When child experiences symptoms of moderate discomfort such as elevated temperature, vomiting or diarrhea, or

When child is involved in an incident that puts their health and/or safety at risk (e.g., missing from program, left on vehicle, escaped from building/playground, etc.)

When professional medical attention is not required, or  
When child experiences symptoms of less than moderate discomfort, or  
When child experiences an adverse reaction to prescribed medication which does not constitute moderate discomfort.

Notify Parent(s) by the end of the day.

DECAL proposes to amend this rule chapter to align with wording to match Child Care Learning Centers and to increase health and safety awareness for parents that have children in care and require programs to immediately notify parents in the event that a child is involved in an incident that puts their health and/or safety at risk. This could include situations such as, but not limited to, the child becomes missing from the program, the child escapes the building or playground, the child is left on a vehicle, etc.



The following Committee meetings are in session:

**Programs and Rules** – Hickory Conference Room

**Budget and Finance** – Cypress Conference Room

**Quality Innovations and Partnerships** – Oak Conference Room

*The Public Comment Period will commence at 1:00 pm.*



**Georgia Dept  
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Welcome to the Board of Early Care  
and Learning

# Public Hearing

August 24, 2023



**Georgia Dept  
of Early Care  
and Learning**

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# Committee Reports

# Board Action On:

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## *Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, Rule Chapter 591-1-1*

- **Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.07 – Children's Health**
- **Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.16 – Governing Body and Licenses**
- **Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.36 – Transportation**



# Board Action On:

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## *Rules and Regulations for Family Child Care Learning Homes, Rule Chapter 290-2-3*

- **Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.11 – Health, Safety, and Discipline**



## Upcoming Budget Requests

	Current FY24 Budget	Proposed AFY24 Budget	Change
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### By Program

Child Care Services	\$329,093,994	\$329,393,994	\$300,000
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,100,000	\$100,000
Pre-K + (HS)	\$443,965,064	\$452,310,253	\$8,345,189
Quality Initiatives	\$61,414,822	\$61,414,822	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$982,473,880</b>	<b>\$991,219,069</b>	<b>\$8,745,189</b>

### By Fund Source

State General	\$62,534,475	\$62,934,475	\$400,000
State Lottery	\$443,790,064	\$452,135,253	\$8,345,189
Federal	\$475,649,841	\$475,649,841	\$0
Other	\$499,500	\$499,500	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$982,473,880</b>	<b>\$991,219,069</b>	<b>\$8,745,189</b>

# Finance Update

## AFY 2024 Budget Request



## Upcoming Budget Requests

	Current FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	Change
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### By Program

Child Care Services	\$329,093,994	\$330,970,028	\$1,876,034
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,000,000	\$0
Pre-K + (HS)	\$443,965,064	\$444,348,375	\$383,311
Quality Initiatives	\$61,414,822	\$61,414,822	\$0
Totals	\$982,473,880	\$984,733,225	\$2,259,345

### By Fund Source

State General	\$62,534,475	\$64,410,509	\$1,876,034
State Lottery	\$443,790,064	\$444,173,375	\$383,311
Federal	\$475,649,841	\$475,649,841	\$0
Other	\$499,500	\$499,500	\$0
Totals	\$982,473,880	\$984,733,225	\$2,259,345

# Finance Update

## FY 2025 Budget Request

**(3% Increase Scenario)**



## Upcoming Budget Requests

	Current FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	Change
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### By Program

Child Care Services	\$329,093,994	\$328,468,649	\$(625,345)
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,000,000	\$0
Pre-K + (HS)	\$443,965,064	\$443,837,294	\$(127,770)
Quality Initiatives	\$61,414,822	\$61,414,822	\$0
Totals	\$982,473,880	\$981,720,765	\$(753,115)

### By Fund Source

State General	\$62,534,475	\$61,909,130	\$(625,345)
State Lottery	\$443,790,064	\$443,662,294	\$(127,770)
Federal	\$475,649,841	\$475,649,841	\$0
Other	\$499,500	\$499,500	\$0
Totals	\$982,473,880	\$981,720,765	\$(753,115)

# Finance Update

## FY 2025 Budget Request

**(1% Decrease Scenario)**



# Proposed Board Meeting Dates 2024

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- February 15, 2024
- May 16 2024
- August 22, 2024
- November 21, 2024







Georgia Dept  
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# Board Meeting Dates 2023

- 
- ~~February 16, 2023~~
  - ~~May 18, 2023~~
  - ~~August 24, 2023~~
  - November 16, 2023

