



GEORGIA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Celebrating outstanding teachers in the field of early childhood education.

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is seeking applications for the inaugural 2021-2022 Georgia's Early Childhood Educators of the Year program in the following categories:

- Infant Teacher of the Year (0-18 months)
- Toddler Teacher of the Year (15-36 months)
- Preschool Teacher of the Year (36-48 months)

The top six finalists (two from each category) will each receive \$500 for their personal use, and the top three winners (one from each category) will receive an additional:

- \$3,000 for their personal use
- \$2,000 for a classroom makeover
- Up to \$2,500 for their school to cover travel expenses and stipends for substitute teachers as the teacher fulfills their duties of a Georgia's Early Childhood Educator of the Year around the state.

If you are a program director and work with an early childhood teacher who is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young children, their families, and the early childhood education field, consider nominating them for Georgia's Early Childhood Educators of the Year program.

To be considered for this honor, the teacher must:

- Currently be employed as a lead teacher in the age group for which they are being nominated at a licensed 2- or 3-star Quality Rated childcare provider that is in good standing with all programs administered by DECAL
- Have a minimum of three years of experience as a lead teacher
- Plan to continue as a lead teacher in the 2021-2022 school year
- Hold an approved credential in the field of early childhood education or related field (CDA, TCC, TCD, AA, BS, or Ed.)
- Be willing to participate in an interview and a classroom evaluation if selected as a finalist
- Be willing to serve as an ambassador for Georgia's Early Childhood Educators of the Year program, including public speaking engagements and activities related to modeling effective classroom practices if selected as a winner
- Be able and willing to travel as needed, including some overnight stays (travel expenses will be reimbursed) if selected as a winner

Application Requirements and Information

Applications for Georgia's Early Childhood Educators of the Year program must be typed and completed in their entirety. Handwritten applications will not be considered, reviewed, or scored. Application scores will not be released to any applicants or the public.

Application Submission

Please e-mail your application and teacher attestation form together to eoty@decals.ga.gov. All applications **must be submitted** on or before **September 8, 2021** at **5:00PM**. Applications that are submitted after the deadline **will not** be considered.

For questions about Educator of the Year applications, contact Carrie Ashbee at Carrie.Ashbee@decals.ga.gov or (404) 548-5023.



GEORGIA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

All educators must be nominated by their program director.

Application Submission Date Click or tap to enter a date.

Category

- ☐ Infant Teacher of the Year (0-18 months)
- ☐ Toddler Teacher of the Year (15-36 months)
- ☐ Preschool Teacher of the Year (36-48 months)

Program Director's Information

Name of Director	
Phone Number	
E-mail Address	

Program Information

License Number	
Location Name	
Legal Name	
Street Address	
City	
Zip Code	
County	

Nominee Information

Name of Educator	
Phone Number	
E-mail Address	

Professional Preparation

Complete the table below with the nominee's earned credential(s).

Credential Earned	Field of Study	Institution	Date Credential Received
Child Development Associate (CDA)			
Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC)			
Associate degree			
Bachelor's Degree			
Master's Degree			
Specialist Degree			
Doctorate			

Professional Experience

List all early education programs in Georgia where the nominee has worked as an ECE Lead Teacher, starting with the most recent.

Program Name	Age Group(s) Taught	Start Date	End Date

Open-ended responses

Please respond to the following open-ended questions about the nominee using no more than 250 words per response.

Describe how the nominee supports the individual care and educational needs of children and families in their care.

Describe a contribution or general impact the nominee has had on your program or community. How have they contributed to the program or community outside of their classroom?

Georgia's Early Childhood Educators of the Year serve as positive role models and ambassadors for early childhood by participating in public speaking engagements and activities that model effective classroom practices. Why do you believe your nominee should be selected as one of Georgia's Early Childhood Educators of the Year?



GEORGIA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

As part of the application process, both the nominating director and the educator (nominee) should read and sign the acknowledgements below.

Program Director (Nominator) Acknowledgement

By signing below, I confirm that the information that I have provided is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Program Director (Nominator) Signature or Typed Name

Date

Educator (Nominee) Acknowledgement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and if selected, agree to the following roles and responsibilities associated with being one of Georgia's Early Childhood Educators of the Year:

- I will serve as an ambassador for Georgia's Early Childhood Educators of the Year program
- I will participate in public speaking engagements and activities modeling effective classroom practices.
- I will travel as needed – including to some overnight stays (travel expenses will be reimbursed).
- I will participate in an interview and classroom evaluation.

Educator (Nominee) Signature or Typed Name

Date