



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 656-5957

Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby D. Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Stacey Moore

404.656.0239

Stacey.Moore@dec.al.ga.gov

Georgia's At Risk Afterschool Meals Program is available

Atlanta, Ga., (December 8, 2011) - Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning announces the availability of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) At Risk Afterschool Meals Program at eligible afterschool programs throughout the state. Afterschool programs, childcare centers and Head Start programs that offer afterschool programs are eligible to participate. The At Risk Afterschool Meals Program is a component of and funded through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Public or private non-profit organizations or eligible for profit organizations that are located in an attendance area of a public school, where at least 50 percent of the enrolled students are certified as eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and that provide educational or enrichment activities in an organized, structured, and supervised setting at the end of a school day, on weekends, or on holiday during the school day are eligible to participate in the At Risk Afterschool Meals Program.

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Approved organizations receive cash reimbursement for up to one snack and one meal served to enrolled participants that are up to age 18, or whose 19th birthday occurs during the school year.

Bright from the Start offers training and technical assistance to interested organizations. For more information on the available training dates and venues or to register for the training, please contact the Nutrition Services Division at 404.657.1779.

To find an At Risk Afterschool Meals Program, please visit Bright from the Start website at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx>. Use the search function (zip code or county) to find a list of all local facilities, addresses, maps, contact names, and phone numbers.

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Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers federal nutrition programs, and manages the voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.decal.ga.gov.