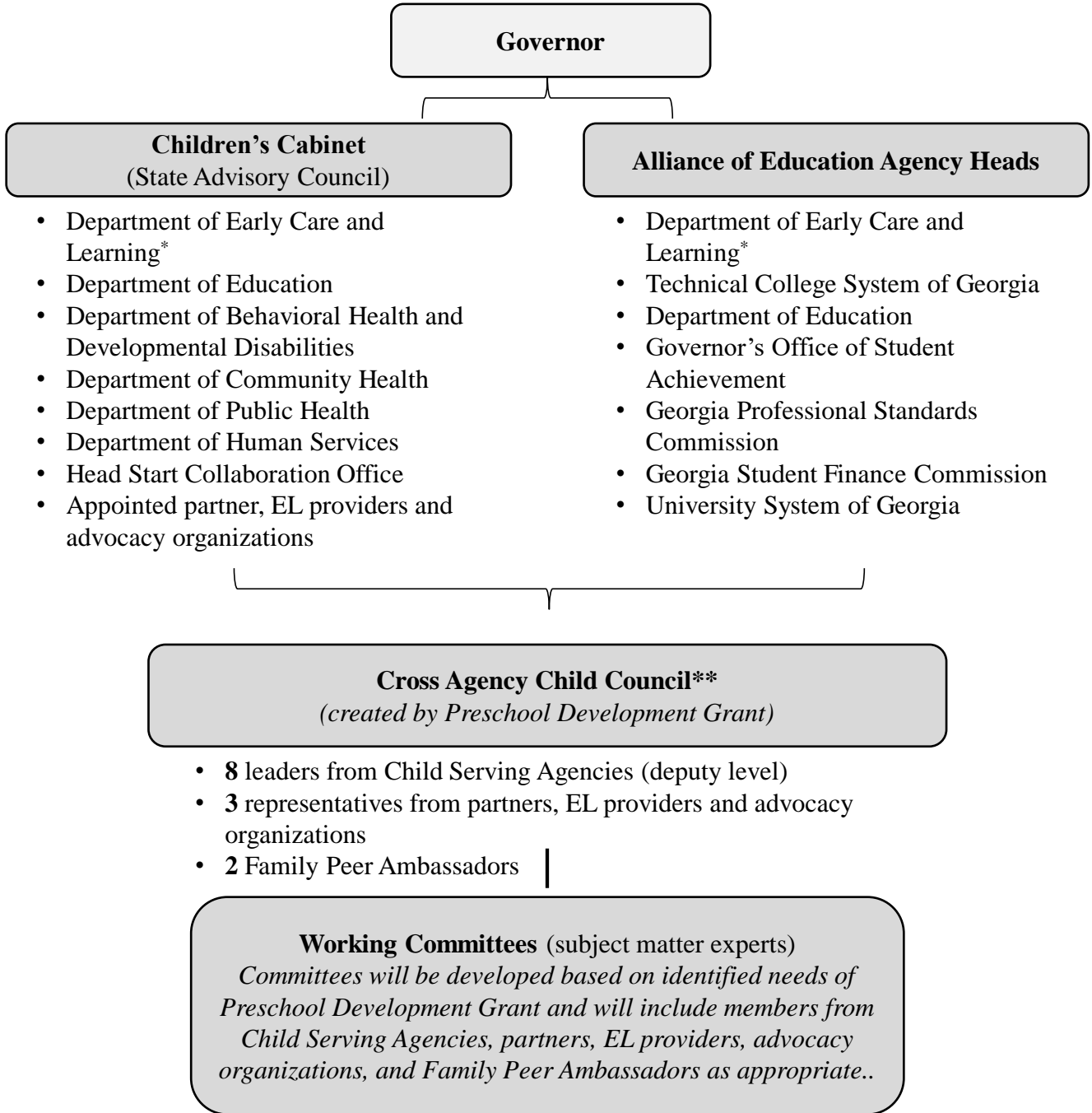


Bold: Divisions with oversight by a Deputy Commissioner or Chief Officer who reports directly to the Commissioner.

New positions funded by PDG.



*Department of Early Care and Learning is the PDG Lead Agency

**Co-chaired by Department of Early Care and Learning and Department of Education



STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ATLANTA 30334-0090

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

November 1, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

As Governor of Georgia, I am submitting the attached proposal in response to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Request for Applications for the *Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)*. With this letter, I pledge my administration's unwavering support for the work proposed in this application that will impact Georgia's young children, their families, and ultimately, the future of our state.

Georgia is one of only a few states with a department of state government – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) – whose job is to ensure that all children in the state receive high quality early learning experiences in safe and healthy environments when in out-of-home child care. During my eight years as Governor, First Lady Sandra Deal and I have worked closely with DECAL on many issues relating to high quality early childhood education and care.

In 2013, Georgia was awarded a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (ELC) grant that has enabled our state to make great strides in improving early childhood education and care. The grant period for the ELC is ending, and while much has been accomplished through DECAL's responsible leadership and stewardship of the ELC funding, we want to do more to ensure optimal outcomes for children, especially the children identified in the *PDG B-5* Request for Applications.

Because of DECAL's experience effectively collaborating with public and private entities on behalf of children and families; administering and blending federal, state, and philanthropic funding streams; and maintaining a stellar reputation for customer service when dealing with families, child care providers, school systems, stakeholders, lawmakers, and the public, I have designated DECAL as the lead agency for implementing the work proposed in this application.

The projects and activities in this proposal complement and build on the work achieved through the ELC grant and will focus on our state's most vulnerable children and families. By investing in this newly proposed work, you will build on the federal investment made in Georgia through the ELC as we continue implementing a coordinated system of early care and education that supports children's success in school and beyond.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of Georgia's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Deal".

Nathan Deal