



Brian P. Kemp
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Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DECAL To Celebrate “A Decade of Stars” During Quality Rated’s 10th Anniversary

Rating System Has Recognized Georgia’s Child Care Stars Since 2012

ATLANTA, Ga., (August 31, 2022) –The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) will host a series of statewide celebrations beginning in September to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the state’s highly regarded Quality Rated child care system.

Under the theme, “A Decade of Stars,” the Anniversary events will celebrate Quality Rated’s achievements, spotlight some of the providers that have attained star-rated status over the years, and engage with the program’s longstanding stakeholders and partners.

“We are extremely proud to reach this important milestone in the development of Quality Rated,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “The 10th Anniversary gives us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the great progress we have made in improving access to and elevating the quality of child care across the state with our star-rated providers and families, as well as with our stakeholders and staff.”

Over the past 10 years, the Quality Rated star rating has become a symbol of excellence that providers across the state covet and that gives parents confidence that their children are receiving high-quality care and education.

Since 2012 when the first star rating was awarded, the program has grown steadily. As of August 15, 2022, more than 2,850 child care providers are Quality Rated. Additionally, 93% of children with Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) scholarships are enrolled at a Quality Rated provider, putting DECAL ever closer to realizing its vision that every child in Georgia regardless of their family income or geographic region has equal access to high-quality early child care and education.

To earn a Quality Rated 1-, 2-, or 3-star rating, a provider must meet a list of rigorous requirements. They demonstrate their commitment to structural quality by submitting a portfolio with evidence of qualified administrators and staff; high standards for child physical, emotional, and developmental well-being; robust family engagement activities, and intentional teaching practices. Applicants must also show that they adhere to process quality standards during on-site classroom observations that are conducted by credentialed Quality Rated assessors. During the visits, the assessors evaluate the quality of teacher-child interactions; the accessibility of materials and equipment; and the room's physical layout.

“We’re very proud that so many providers over the past 10 years have accepted the challenge to enhance the quality of child care they deliver to Georgia’s youngest learners and have met the high bar Quality Rated sets for receiving a 1-, 2-, or 3-star rating,” said DECAL Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships Bentley Ponder. “These star-rated providers are DECAL’s partners in our mission to ensure that every child in Georgia has access to high-quality early care and education regardless of family income or location.”

The Quality Rated Anniversary festivities kick off at Truist Park on Sunday afternoon, September 4, 2022, when the Atlanta Braves host Quality Rated Day. Commissioner Jacobs will throw out the first pitch before the Braves take on the Miami Marlins. She will be joined on the field for pregame ceremonies by a group that will include members of the Quality Rated Team and their children.

In addition to the Braves game next month, during the fourth quarter of 2022, DECAL will host several Anniversary events that will recognize providers that were among the first to become Quality Rated and hold discussions on the future of child care quality assessment and improvement in Georgia with stakeholders and community partners. DECAL will announce details of those events in the coming months.

About Quality Rated

Quality Rated is Georgia's systemic approach to assessing, improving, and communicating the level of quality in early care and education providers. Similar to rating systems for other service-related industries, Quality Rated assigns a star rating to child care providers that meet a set of defined program standards. By participating in Quality Rated, providers embark on a path of continuous quality improvement, with the goal of instilling lasting, positive effects on Georgia's children, families, and economy.

About DECAL

The 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 Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Program and federal nutrition programs; and manages Quality Rated, Georgia's community-powered child care rating system. The department also houses the Head Start State 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.dec.al.ga.gov.



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Quality Rated 10th Anniversary Kicks Off at Atlanta Braves Game Labor Day Weekend

Event Honors Star-Rated Providers, Families; Commissioner Jacobs to Throw Out First Pitch

ATLANTA, Ga., (August 25, 2022) –The statewide celebration commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Georgia’s Quality Rated child care rating and improvement system gets off to an exciting start on Sunday afternoon, September 4, 2022 at Truist Park, during the Atlanta Braves–Miami Marlins baseball game.

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has collaborated with the Braves on a pre-game program that spotlights Quality Rated’s “Decade of Stars,” the theme of its 10th anniversary celebration. The event will also commemorate Quality Rated’s successful development and implementation of its innovative 1-, 2-, and 3-star rating system to assess, improve, and communicate the quality of early care and education in Georgia since its inception in 2012.

The highlight of Quality Rated Day at Truist Park will come just before gametime, when DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs throws out the ceremonial first pitch. She will be joined on the field by a group that will include Quality Rated staff members and their children.

“We’re extremely proud that in its first 10 years Quality Rated has motivated thousands of providers to deliver high-quality child care and education that has put so many children on the path to future academic success and social-emotional well-being,” said Commissioner Jacobs. “We’re looking forward to being in Truist Park celebrating Quality Rated’s decade of star providers, young learners, and families, and cheering for the World Champion Atlanta Braves.”

Before the festivities begin inside the ballpark, fans can stop by the Quality Rated tent located near the 3rd Base Gate Entrance to learn more about the star rating system as well as the supports that DECAL provides to help families find high-quality child care that fits their needs, such as the online search tool at www.qualityrated.org and the toll-free helpline 1-877-ALL-GA-KIDS (1-877-255-4254) operated by Quality Care for Children.

“We are proud to partner with DECAL to celebrate Quality Rated’s 10th anniversary,” said Jim Allen, Atlanta Braves Senior Vice President, Corporate & Premium Partnerships. “This event will provide much-needed resources and educational opportunities for Braves Country families who can benefit from the Quality Rated child care rating and improvement system. The Braves remain committed to supporting educators, parents, and our youngest fans on their educational journey.”

Since 2012 when the first star rating was awarded, Quality Rated has grown steadily. As of August 15, 2022, more than 2,850 child care providers are Quality Rated. Additionally, 93% of children with Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) scholarships are enrolled at a Quality Rated provider, putting DECAL ever closer to realizing its vision that every child in Georgia regardless of family income or geographic region has equal access to high-quality early care and education.

To earn a Quality Rated 1-, 2-, or 3-star rating, providers must meet a list of rigorous requirements. They demonstrate their commitment to structural quality by submitting a portfolio with evidence of qualified administrators and staff; high standards for child physical, emotional, and developmental well-being; robust family engagement activities, and intentional teaching

practices. Applicants must also show that they adhere to process quality standards during on-site classroom observations that are conducted by credentialed Quality Rated assessors. During the visits, the assessors evaluate the quality of teacher-child interactions; the accessibility of materials and equipment; and the room's physical layout.

Following the Braves game, during the fourth quarter of 2022, DECAL will host several Anniversary events celebrating the star-rated providers that have delivered high-quality child care and engaging with the stakeholders and community partners that have supported Quality Rated over the past 10 years. DECAL will announce details of those events in the coming months.

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DECAL Honors Quality Rated's Class of 2012 During 10th Anniversary Celebration

Class Members Have Consistently Delivered High-Quality Care and Earned Star Ratings for 10 Years

ATLANTA, Ga., (October 20, 2022) – As part of Quality Rated's "Decade of Stars" 10th Anniversary celebration, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has named 126 child care providers to the exclusive Quality Rated Class of 2012 in recognition of their unique status as early adopters that have consistently delivered high-quality, star-rated care and education to Georgia's youngest learners.

The 126 providers are being singled out for beginning the Quality Rated process when the program launched in 2012, earning a 1-, 2-, or 3-star rating by July 2013, and maintaining a star rating continually over the past 10 years. DECAL will honor the Class of 2012 during statewide Anniversary celebrations over the next three months. Information on the Regional Celebrations, as well as the names and locations of the providers that are members of the Class are listed on a separate page below.

"The members of the Class of 2012 are the brightest of all the Quality Rated stars," said DECAL Commissioner Amy Jacobs. "They have made early and sustained commitments to the goal of creating high-quality, nurturing learning environments for Georgia's youngest learners that have contributed significantly to Quality Rated's success during its first decade."

To earn a Quality Rated 1-, 2-, or 3-star rating, a provider must meet requirements that exceed licensing standards. They demonstrate their commitment to structural quality by submitting a portfolio with evidence of qualified administrators and staff; high standards for child physical, emotional, and developmental well-being; robust family engagement activities, and intentional teaching practices. Applicants must also show that they adhere to process quality standards during on-site program assessments that are conducted by credentialed Quality Rated assessors. During the observation visits, the assessors evaluate the quality of teacher-child

interactions; the accessibility of materials and equipment; and the physical layout of the classroom or family child care learning home.

In addition to recognizing the Class of 2012, the Anniversary celebrations will commemorate Quality Rated's achievements and engage with the program's longstanding stakeholders and partners. Over the past 10 years, the Quality Rated star rating has become a symbol of excellence that providers across the state covet and that gives parents confidence that their children are receiving high-quality care and education. Since 2012 when the first star rating was awarded, the program has grown steadily. As of August 15, 2022, more than 2,850 child care providers are Quality Rated. Additionally, 93% of children with Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) scholarships are enrolled at a Quality Rated provider, putting DECAL ever closer to realizing its vision that every child in Georgia regardless of their family income or geographic region has equal access to high-quality early child care and education.

"We are extremely proud to reach this important milestone in the development of Quality Rated," said Dr. Bentley Ponder, DECAL Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships. "The 10th Anniversary gives us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the great progress we have made in improving access to and elevating the quality of child care across the state with our star-rated providers, as well as our stakeholders and staff."

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QUALITY RATED CLASS OF 2012

Discovery Point Child Development Center #46	Acworth
KinderCare Learning Center (Wade Green #889)	Acworth
Teachable Moments Learning Center	Adel
Miss Jan's Nursery & Playschool, Inc.	Albany
ABC Child Development Center	Alma
Sheltering Arms - Elaine P. Draeger Model Teaching Center	Atlanta
The Sunshine House #96	Atlanta
KIDazzle Child Care and Learning Center	Atlanta
Premiere Scholar Early Learning Center	Atlanta
KinderCare Learning Center #404	Atlanta
Sikes Rockin Horse Ranch	Auburn
McIntosh Trail ECDC- Lamar County Head Start	Barnesville
Discovery Point #63	Braselton
Children's Learning Center	Buford
Discovery Point #40	Buford
Friendship Learning Center	Buford
Discovery Point #37	Canton
The Sunshine House #131	Cartersville
KinderCare Learning Center #412	Chamblee
Academy for Little People	Chickamauga
Sheltering Arms - Stonewall Tell	College Park
Little Scholars Academy of Atlanta	College Park
Creative Beginnings Pre-School Academy	College Park
KinderCare Learning Center #411	College Park
Discovery Point #61	Conyers
La Petite Academy - Highway 138	Conyers
Discovery Point #59	Covington
Newton County Head Start Center	Covington
Johnson, Vanessa	Crawfordville
Dawson, Debora A.	Dacula
The Sunshine House #105	Dallas
Reflections Learning Academy #2	Dallas
Friendship House	Dalton
Whitfield-Dalton Day Care Center	Dalton
Whitfield Head Start/Early Head Start	Dalton
Family Resource Agency, Dalton Heritage Pre-K	Dalton
Washington County Head Start Davisboro Center	Davisboro
Child Prophesies	Decatur
Pleasant, Carolyn D.	Decatur
Polnitz, Wanda L.	Decatur
The Sunshine House #104	Douglasville
Intelli-Kids	Dublin

The Sunshine House #77	Duluth
Discovery Point #3	Duluth
Big Blue Marble - Duluth	Duluth
Avila, Alba R	Duluth
Little Linguists International Preschool - East Point	East Point
First Baptist Church Weekday	Ellijay
Magic Learning Academy	Evans
Harvest Rain Academy	Fairburn
Discovery Point #65	Flowery Branch
Little Ones Learning Center	Forest Park
Joyland Christian Academy	Fort Oglethorpe
Noah's Ark Christian Learning Center	Fort Oglethorpe
Glascocock Co. Head Start Center	Gibson
The Sunshine House #79	Grayson
Spalding County Pre-K	Griffin
Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center	Griffin
Raulerson, Karyn L	Hahira
Hinesville Child Care Learning Center	Hinesville
Elite Academy	Hoschton
Happy Hollow Christian Academy	Irwinton
Butts County Head Start & Pre-K	Jackson
Little Creations Learning Center	Jonesboro
The Sunshine House #49	Kennesaw
Family Resource Agency, South Walker Head Start/EHS/Pre-K	LaFayette
Childtime Childcare #1110	Lawrenceville
Childtime Childcare #1117	Lawrenceville
Cinthy's Angels Group Day Care, Inc	Lawrenceville
KinderCare Learning Center #1313	Lawrenceville
Sierra, Maria G	Lawrenceville
Lopez, Emma	Lawrenceville
Acosta, Flor A	Lawrenceville
Laruy, Janeth	Lawrenceville
Valdivia, Roxana E	Lawrenceville
Estrada, Gleydis	Lawrenceville
The Sunshine House #73	Lilburn
Elliott, Antoinette C	Lithonia
Henry County Head Start Center	Locust Grove
The Sunshine House #80	Loganville
Clay, De'angela	Mableton
The Sunshine House #91	Marietta
Discovery Point #43	Marietta
MJCCA Sunshine School	Marietta
KinderCare Learning Center #1690	Marietta
La Petite Academy - Williams	Marietta

Little Caterpillars Development Center, Inc.	Milledgeville
St. Stephen's Day School	Milledgeville
Learning Safari Child Care and Learning Center	Milledgeville
KinderCare Learning Center #410	Morrow
Skinner, Erin L	Nashville
StoneBridge Early Learning Center	Newnan
Sheltering Arms - Norcross Center	Norcross
The Sunshine House #92	Norcross
The Sunshine House #161	Norcross
Jesus Loves Me Daycare	Ray City
Marcelle, Susan P.	Rex
La Petite Academy - Taylor	Riverdale
Felts, Linda D	Riverdale
Weimer, Noel K	Roswell
Washington County NB & PW Club	Sandersville
Tutor Time Child Care Learning Center	Smyrna
KinderCare Learning Center #414	Smyrna
The Sunshine House #74	Snellville
Childtime Childcare #1150	Snellville
Ivywood Academy - Snellville	Snellville
Kid's World Learning Center	Statesboro
The Sunshine House #64	Stockbridge
Childtime Childcare #1101	Stone Mountain
Lovejoy, Valerie N	Stone Mountain
Rodriguez, Erica	Stone Mountain
Family Resource Agency, Chattooga Head Start/EHS/Pre-K	Summerville
KinderCare Learning Center #5003	Suwanee
McIntosh Trail ECDC Head Start	Thomaston
Mother's Love Child Care Center	Tifton
Mother's Love, Too	Tifton
Dade Head Start / Early Head Start	Trenton
Academy for Little People/Trion	Trion
Williams, Gennatt P	Valdosta
Mathis, Keisha I	Valdosta
Watson, Alberta C	Valdosta
Wilkes County Head Start	Washington
Discovery Point #7	Woodstock
The Sunshine House #55	Woodstock
Burns, Brenda T.	Wrens
Johnson County Head Start Center	Wrightsville
Pike County Head Start Center	Zebulon

QUALITY RATED'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Regional Celebrations



October 24 – Dalton

*Whitfield Career Academy
2300 Maddox Chapel Road NE
Dalton, GA 30721*

Doors Open at 11:00 a.m.

November 18 – Metro Atlanta

*Georgia Piedmont DeKalb Conference Center
495 North Indian Creek Drive
Clarkston, GA 30021*

Doors Open at 8:00 a.m.

December 9 – Valdosta

*Wiregrass Georgia Technical College - Sidney & Sharon Morris Hall
4089 Val Tech Road
Valdosta, GA 31602*

Doors Open at 11:00 a.m.