

Board Meeting Welcome

Dr. Kristy Beam



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve 11/20/25 agenda
- Approve 8/28/25 minutes



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Inspiration

Kristin Morrissey

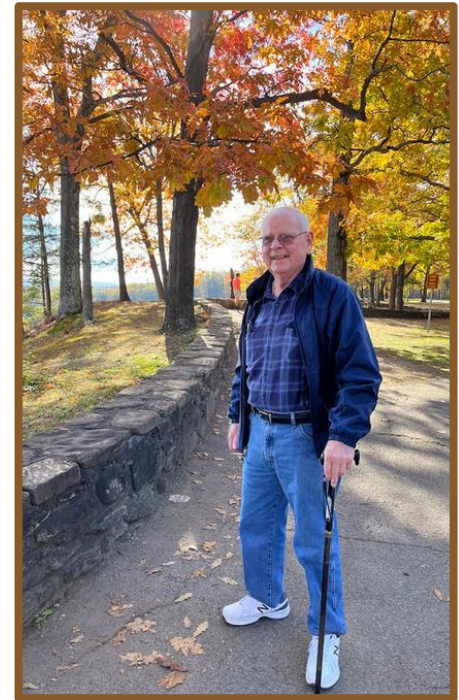


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Thankful for
those who
stepped up...

Veteran's Day

Honoring all who served in the U.S. Armed Forces



**Thankful for those in our lives who
made a lasting impression**



Ms. Susan Fagan
Helping kids find their passion in life



Señora Wardrip
Friends for life (and lunchtime)!

Thankful for those in our lives who made a lasting impression (cont)

Joan Nolan Ross is with Kristin Morrissey.
May 15, 2022 · 🧑

Senior Recognition at church is always special when one of your elementary students is graduating! I love still connecting with former students! I am so proud of you, Sydney!!



Ms. Joan Ross
Fostering a life-long love for reading



South Forsyth Middle

March 30, 2018 · 🌐

SFMS Symphonic Band is warming up at Carnegie Hall!



Dr. Andrew Poor
Former TOTY who inspired a love
and discipline of music

How will you
make a
difference?

What will you be
remembered for?

*Take a moment and
thank someone who
positively impacted
your life!*

Board Member Updates

Commissioner's Updates

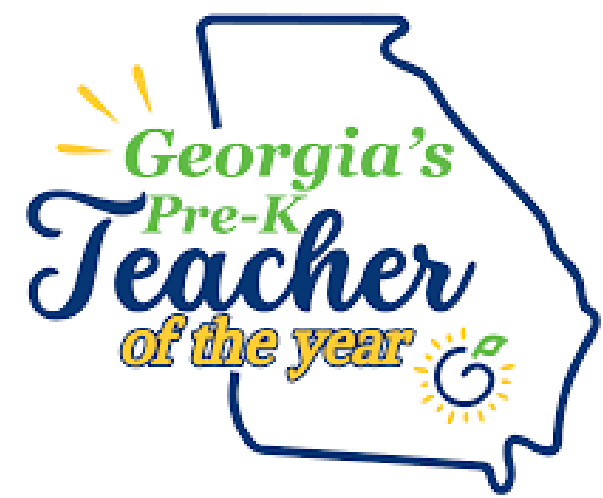
Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner



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GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR
EARLY CARE + LEARNING



Georgia's Early Childhood Educators of the Year



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Categories

- Infant (0-18 months)
- Toddler (15-36 months)
- Preschool (36-48 months)

Application and Selection Process



- Winners are chosen by expert panel based on scores from application, interview, CLASS observation and video submission
- The top six finalists each receive \$500 for their personal use.
- The three winners 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/substitute stipends for professional development opportunities





Early Childhood Educator of the Year

Infant Category

Zina Hadjaz





About Me

Zina Hadjaz

Passionate Educator & Multilingual Teacher



- Born and raised in Algeria, fluent in French, English, Kabyle, and Arabic
- Bachelor's degree in English from Algeria
- Moved to the USA to join my husband, proud mom of Zahra and Mohand
- Working with children since 2013, starting as a classroom assistant, now a lead teacher
- Deeply connected to infants and toddlers, supporting their early development with care and intention
- Teaching French on Saturdays since 2014, making learning language fun and interactive



Infants & Toddlers



Learning Through Play and Exploration

- Our infants and toddlers learn through hands-on activities, songs, stories, and fun, educational games.
- We focus on developing language, motor skills, and social-emotional growth in a nurturing, play-based environment.
- Teachers use the Lango Kids Curriculum, which promotes natural language acquisition through music, movement, and storytelling.
- Families have access to online resources to support learning at home and continue language exposure.



Pre-K & Elementary Programs



Growing Multilingual Learners

- We follow Georgia Early Learning Development Standards (GELDS) and are a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program (PYP).
- Instruction is multilingual, with homeroom languages and daily rotations in French, Spanish, Chinese, and English.
- Pre-K Homerooms:
 - Pre-K 3 → French, Spanish, or Chinese
 - Pre-K 4 → French or Spanish
- Elementary Homerooms:
 - K → Chinese | 1st → Spanish | 2nd → French | 3rd → English
- Core Curricula: McGraw Hill Wonders, Maravillas, Français Méthode Explicite + Reading A to Z, Integrated Chinese, and Eureka Math.
- Licensed by Bright from the Start, Accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission, and Quality Rated.



Curious Minds, Multilingual Hearts



Board Resolution



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Early Childhood
Educator of the Year

Toddler Category

Laura Silva



Lets's meet

Laura I. Silva-Ortega

A heart-led teacher, a color-fueled artist

♥ Teaches with empathy, movement, and bursts of color

✨ Passionate about creating spaces where people feel seen, safe, and celebrated






👣 On a mission to guide little humans (and grown ones too) to be bold, curious, and unafraid to take up space

🌈 Founder of LISOart, a brand rooted in culture, color, and the power of emotional expression



My Little Geniuses Daycare

A nurturing space where little minds grow big dreams

-  Play-based learning through weekly storybooks (LJFA) +  Spanish immersion
-  Social-emotional growth is at the heart of everything we do
-  Fresh, homemade meals daily — with veggies from our  garden
-  A family-run space where every child feels right at home



How it all Started



- 💡 My mom's dream was to create a space where kids feel safe, loved, and free to be themselves
- 🛠️ My dad supported her fully—remodeling our first home to bring her vision to life
- 🧑‍🌾 The farm was born from my dad's roots—sharing nature, animals, and joy from his childhood
- 🌟 They built this together: a space filled with purpose, care, and community
- ✨ "Every child is a little genius—curious, capable, and full of potential."

Board Resolution



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Early Childhood
Educator of the Year

Preschool Category

Samantha Mullins
Our House Central



2025-2026 Georgia's Pre-K Teachers of the Year



Autumn Hart
Bundle of Joy
Academy
Private Provider
Winner



Teresa Swaim
West Jackson
Elementary
Public School
Winner





15th Annual

Georgia
Pre-K
Week

October 6-10, 2025

Brought to you by:



Georgia Power
Voices
for Georgia's Children



Pre-K Week – Board Member Visits



Georgia's Pre-K Week Presentation

Judy Fitzgerald, Executive Director

Joshua England, Advocacy Specialist

Voices for Georgia's Children



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15TH ANNUAL

Georgia Pre-K Week PRESENTATION

Brought to you by:



Georgia Dept
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Voices
for Georgia's Children



WHAT IS GEORGIA PRE-K WEEK?

HISTORY

Georgia's Pre-K Program launched in 1992 as a small pilot program by Governor Zell Miller. At the time, Georgia's Pre-K served 750 four-year-old children in the state. Now, 30 years later, the lottery-funded program has laid a solid foundation for academic excellence and future success in the lives of more than 2 million children in Georgia.

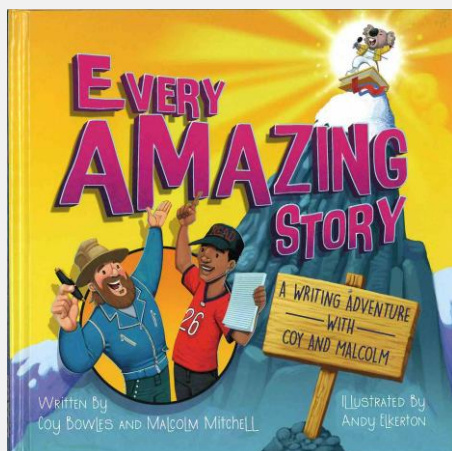
MISSION

The mission of Georgia Pre-K Week is to increase support for quality early education in Georgia by providing state and local leaders with a firsthand experience of quality early learning.

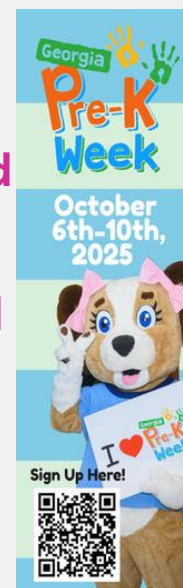


PRE-K WEEK BOOK: “EVERY AMAZING STORY”

This year's featured book, “Every Amazing Story: A Writing Adventure with Coy and Malcolm,” is co-authored by Coy Bowles, a Grammy award-winning guitarist for the Zac Brown Band and advocate for children's education and creativity, and Malcolm Mitchell, former Georgia Bulldog, Super Bowl champion, and literacy advocate. The story takes young readers on a creative journey that shows every child they have a voice and a story worth telling. It's the perfect inspiration for a week dedicated to building curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning.



This year, the Georgia Legislature received copies of “Every Amazing Story” along with an invite to come and read to a local Pre-K Classroom!



PRE-K WEEK 2025: OCT. 6TH-10TH

170 Visits to Pre-K Sites were made across the state from State Leaders, US Congressmen, Mayors, Sheriffs, City Councilmen, Superintendents, and more!



****AS OF OCTOBER 30TH, 2025****



PRE-K SITE REGISTRATIONS

787

2024 REGISTRATIONS

459

8.19.2025

1,100

2025 REGISTRATIONS

367

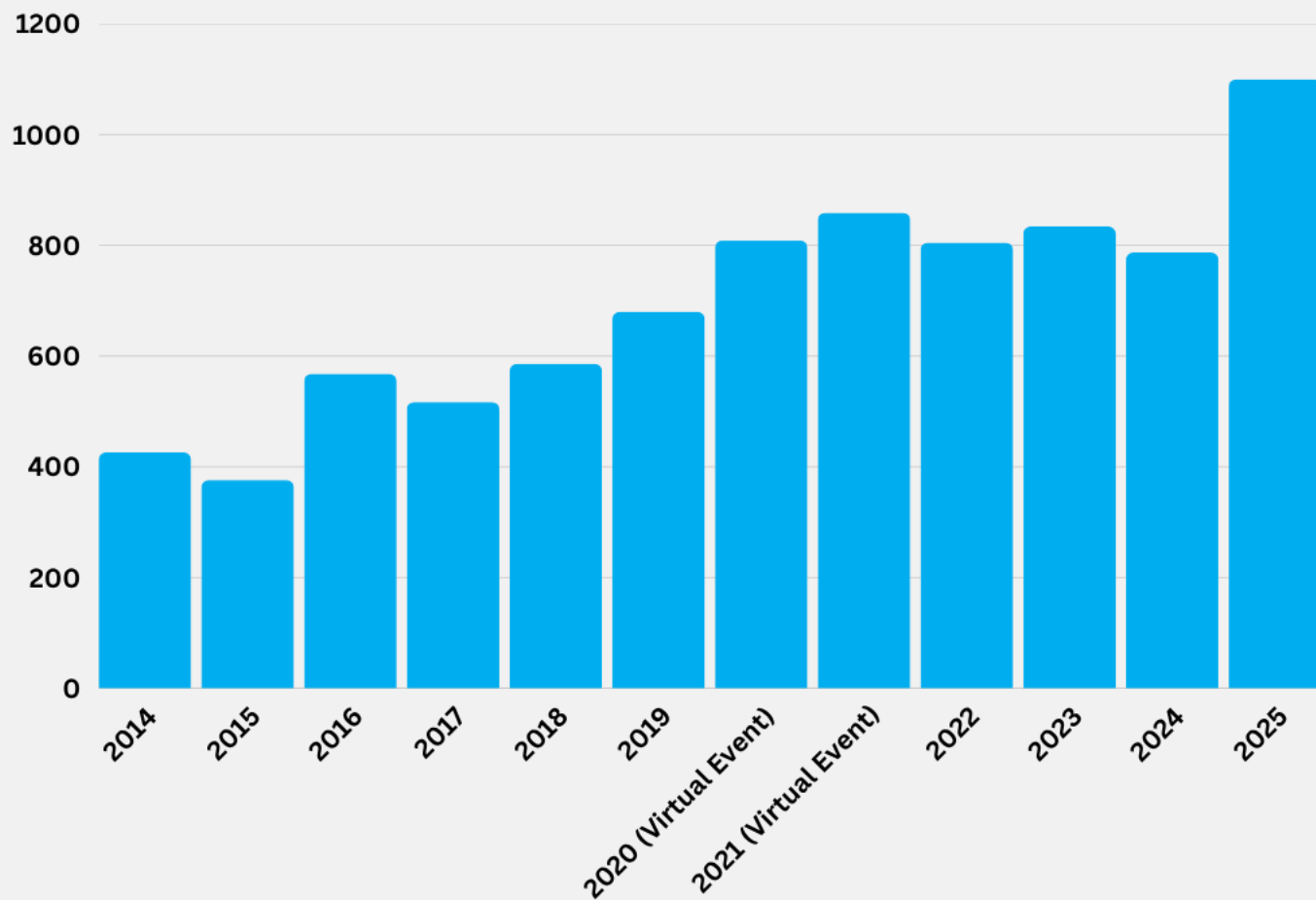
8.14.2025

1,010

9.12.2025



PRE-K SITE REGISTRATIONS



144 Georgia Counties out
of 159 Registered for
Georgia Pre-K Week!



#GAPREKWEEK PHOTO CONTEST

We received record-breaking numbers this year for the photo contest! There were over 330 unique entries and more than 3,000 unique views. Last year, about 6.7% of views turned into entries — this year, that number jumped to 11%, a 64% higher conversion rate. That means not only are more Pre-K Sites seeing the contest, but many more are actively participating!



NOTEWORTHY STORIES OF IMPACT

STATE SENATOR CHUCK PAYNE

"These are PRECIOUS kids! Closing out #PreKWeek with a bang! In all, I visited 10 schools and read to 16 to 18 classes this week!! I find joy in the good opportunity to pour hope into tomorrow's generation. This week was amazing!"

Georgia's Pre-K assists in developing young minds and allows so many children a fast track to becoming capable readers. Early reading skills are essential to EVERY child's development and education."

IRWIN COUNTY SCHOOLS

"We're celebrating 15 years of Georgia Pre-K Week—a time to highlight the importance of early learning, honor our amazing Pre-K teachers, and showcase the impact that quality early education has on our community. Irwin County Pre-K children enjoyed a week filled with shared reading and learning."

This week, we were thrilled to have several community leaders visit our Pre-K classrooms to read to the children and engage with our youngest learners, showing their support for literacy, curiosity, and the joy of reading."

Georgia Pre-K Week continues to remind us that early learning sets the foundation for future success. We are deeply thankful to all our community leaders, educators, and families who help make this celebration meaningful each year. Their involvement and support show our children that learning is a lifelong adventure—one amazing story at a time."



2025 FINAL REPORT

This year's Georgia Pre-K Week set new records and exceeded expectations. We look forward to sharing the full scope of our findings in December.

What to Expect

- Full List of Registered (or participating) Pre-K Sites
- Full list of State Leaders and Legislators that participated
- Geographical data of participation
- 2026 Recommendations
- And More!



THANK YOU & CALL TO ACTION



SIGN-UP TO READ



ATTEND A VISIT



SPREAD THE WORD

Be a part of Pre-K Week 2026! By working together, we can share the magic of Georgia Pre-K Week across the state and continue supporting children, families, and communities. We're grateful for your partnership!



QUESTIONS?

Joshua Q. England

*VOICES FOR GEORGIA'S CHILDREN
ADVOCACY SPECIALIST*

Phone: (404)-369-4634

Email: jengland@georgiavoices.org



Finance, Legislative, & Administrative Updates

Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration



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BRIGHT FROM THE START

FY 2026 Budget Comparison

Data as of Sept 30	Budget	Expenditures*	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
BY PROGRAMS				
Child Care Services	\$457,646,206	\$108,105,386	\$349,540,820	76%
Nutrition	\$170,000,000	\$45,972,446	\$124,027,554	73%
Pre-K + (HS)	\$563,215,616	\$138,419,601	\$424,796,015	75%
Quality Initiatives	\$57,243,738	\$42,654,448	\$14,589,290	25%
Totals	\$1,248,105,560	\$335,151,882	\$912,953,678	73%

BY FUNDING SOURCES				
State General	\$77,355,059	\$4,385,546	\$72,969,513	94%
State Lottery	\$563,040,616	\$138,383,376	\$424,657,240	75%
Federal	\$607,659,885	\$192,382,413	\$415,277,472	68%
Other	\$50,000	\$547	\$49,453	99%
Totals	\$1,248,105,560	\$335,151,882	\$912,953,678	73%

* Includes encumbrances.

Finance Update FY 2026 Budget Summary – Q1



Fiscal Year 2025



- Served **2,930,545** Meals
- 933 Meal Sites
- 65 Sponsors
- 109 GA Counties

Happy Helpings Start-up Grants

- \$100k allocated as part of amended FY25 budget for the purpose of expanding access to children in meals in unserved or underserved areas.
- 11 experienced Sponsors were awarded Happy Helpings Start-up Grants totaling \$84,900 in FY25.
- 74,887 Meals were served at 19 additional meal sites in 15 unique unserved counties.
- Grant monies primarily used to purchase equipment, food and salaries.

	FY22	FY23	Fy24	FY25
Awarded	\$195,000	\$105,000	\$100,000	\$84,900
Sponsors	9 Experienced	13 New & Experienced	12 New & Experienced	11 Experienced
Meals	30,482	81,667	102,527	74,887
Counties	11	16	12	15





Farm to School & Farm to Early Care & Education Month: October 2025

- Governor Kemp signed a proclamation declaring October as Farm to School and Farm to Early Care and Education Month in Georgia.
- The proclamation highlights improving children's nutrition, boosting academic performance, and creating market opportunities for local farmers.



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Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children & Adults



Farm to School & Farm to Early Care & Education Month: October 2025

- Farm to ECE is an innovative way to build a child's relationship with food and the local food system through hands-on food education and gardening experiences, interactive and adventurous taste testing, and inclusion of local food items into CACFP meals and snacks.
- This year's theme is ***Apple of Our Eye***, a statewide campaign to get kids eating, growing, and learning about apples.



Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children & Adults

Site Visit to Rex Childcare & Early Learning Center (Rex, Georgia)



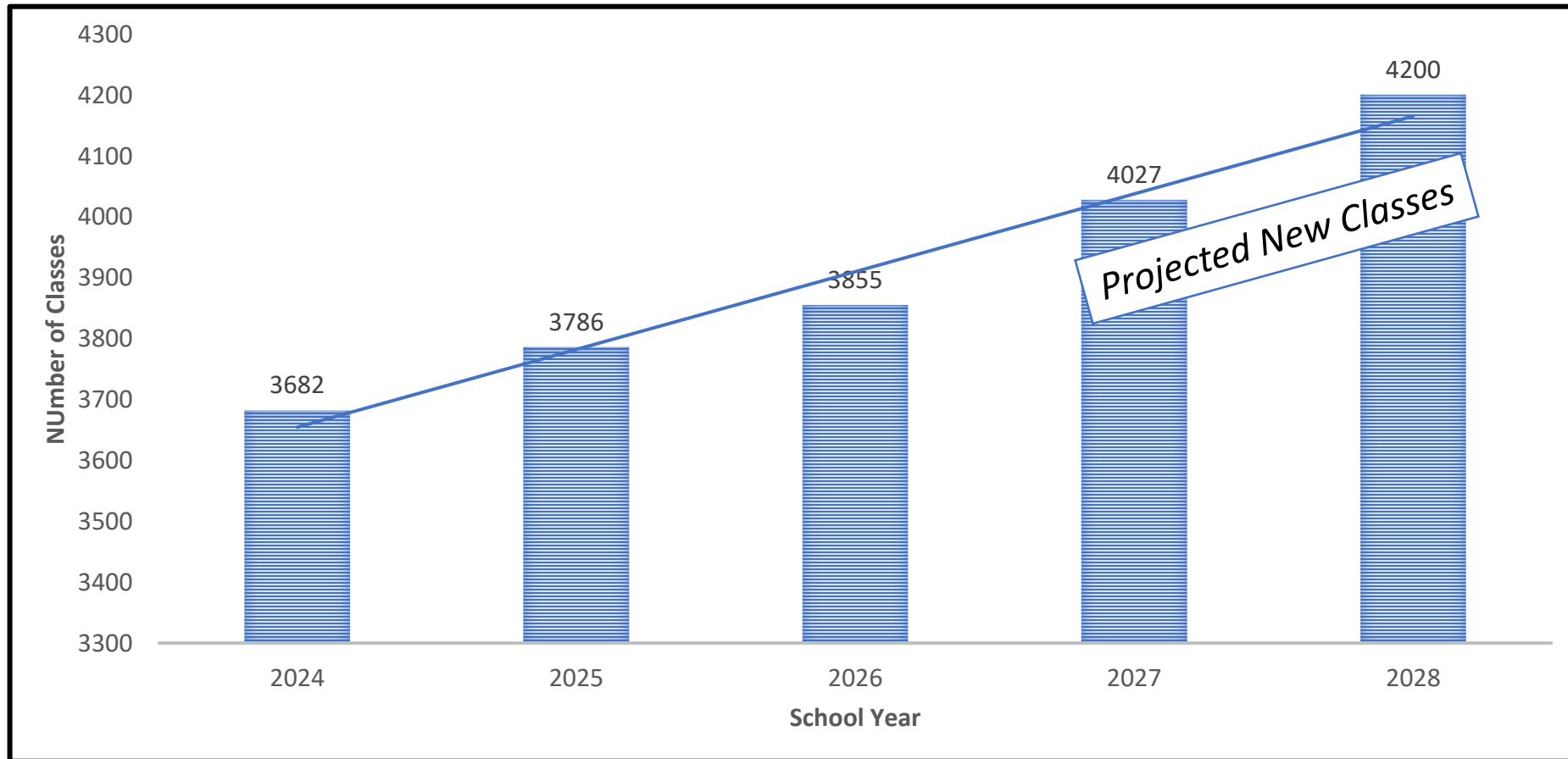
Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children & Adults

Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports Updates

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

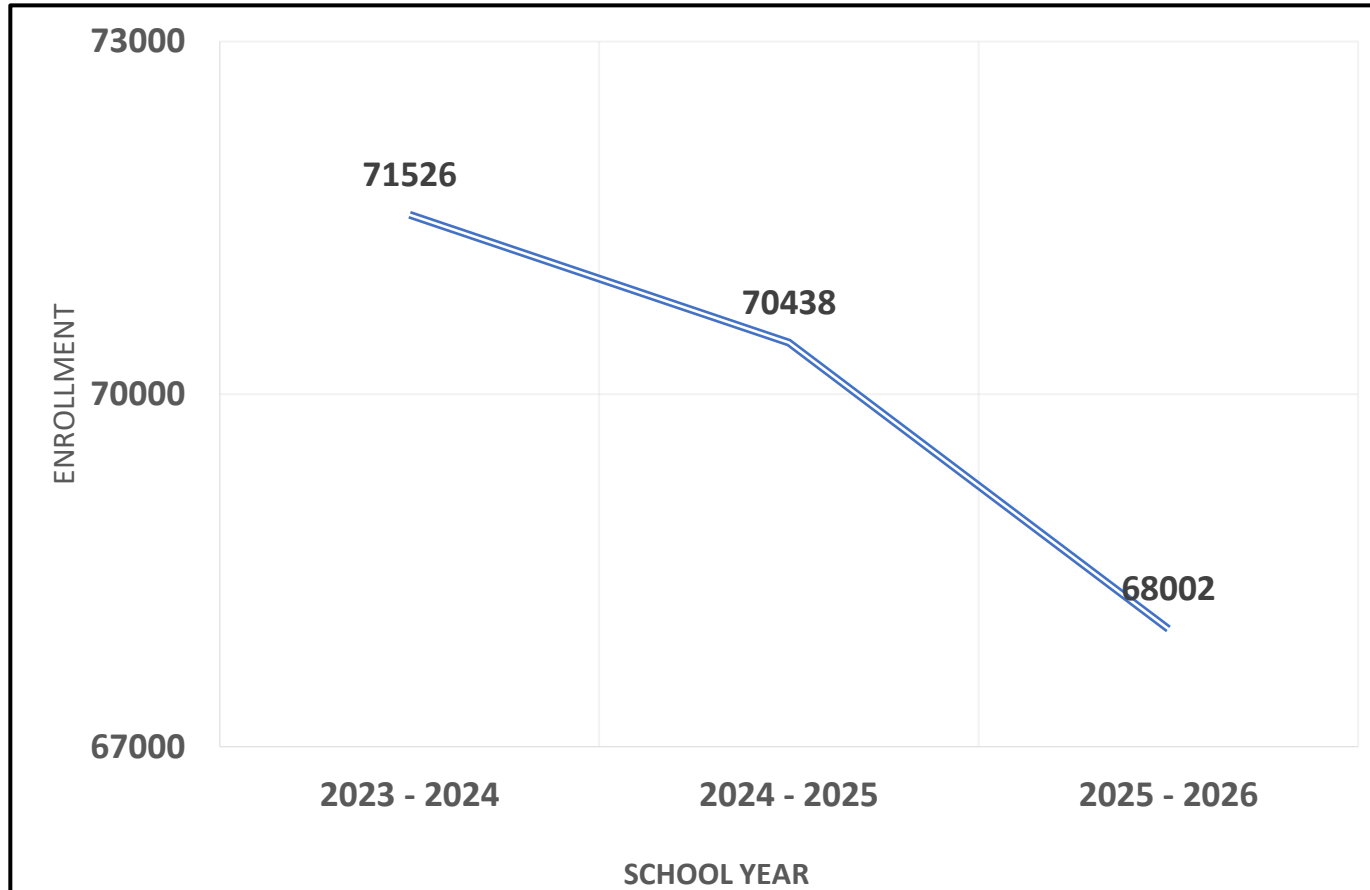
Reduction of Class Size

Classes awarded each year to support lower class size



Pre-K Enrollment

Decline in Pre-K enrollment continues



% of Four-Year-Old Population Served:

SY2024:	54%
SY2025:	55%
SY2026:	53%

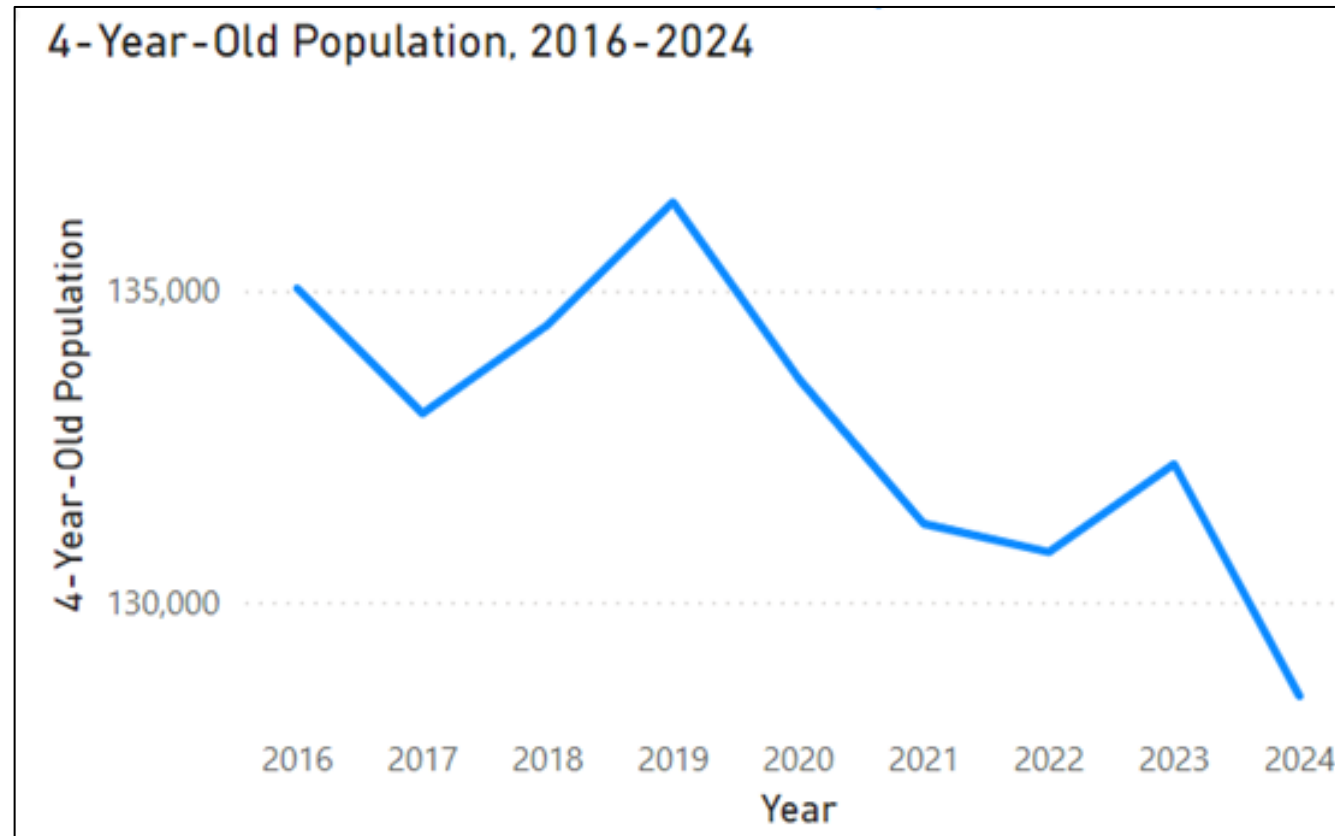
Waiting List:

SY2024:	3155
SY2025:	3528
SY2026:	2718



Georgia Birthrate

There has been a significant decline in Georgia's birthrate



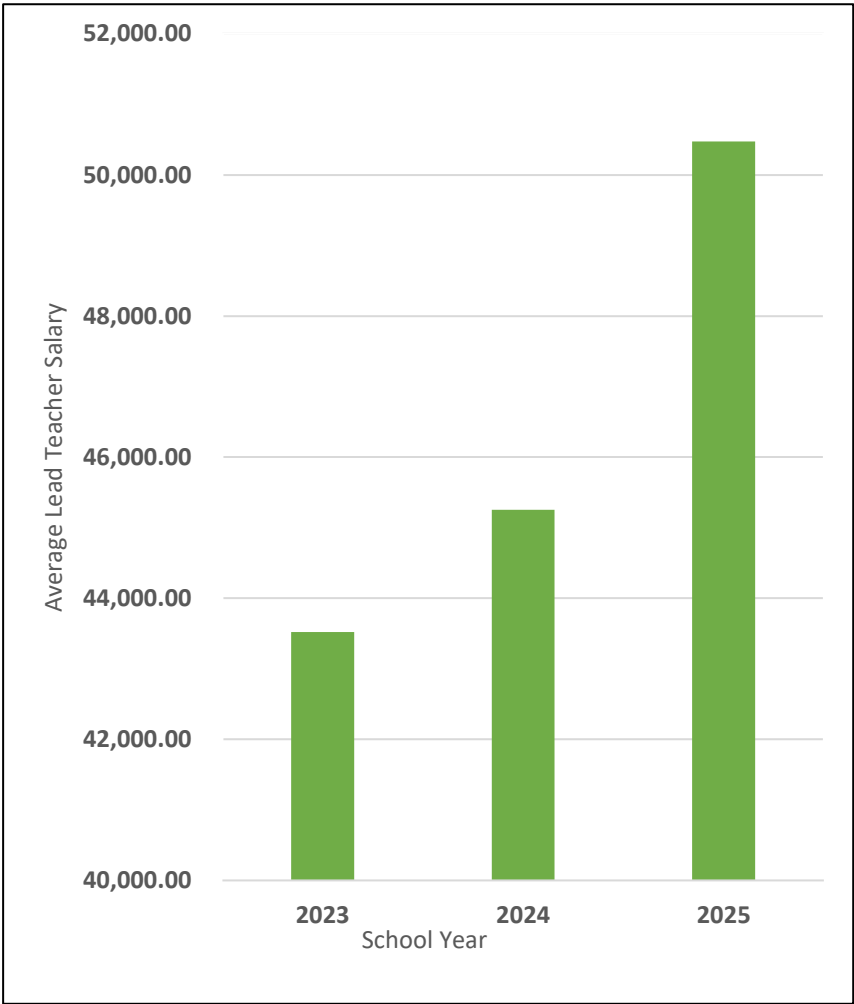
Why is Enrollment Declining?

- Declining birthrate
 - Consistent with enrollment changes in Kindergarten
- Impact of the class size reduction
- Shifting demographics in the state
- Parental Choice
- Collecting data on enrollment trends, student demographic changes, & regional enrollment changes to better understand the decline and to address enrollment challenges

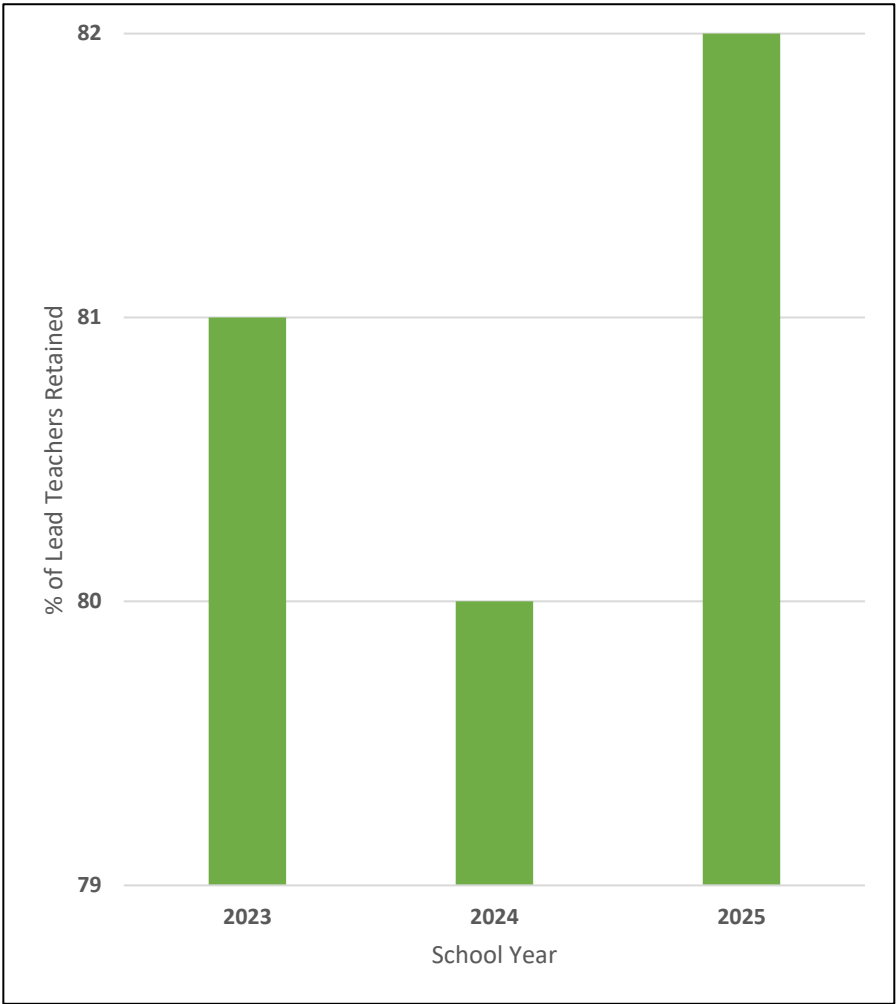


Lead Teacher Updates

Significant Increase in Salary

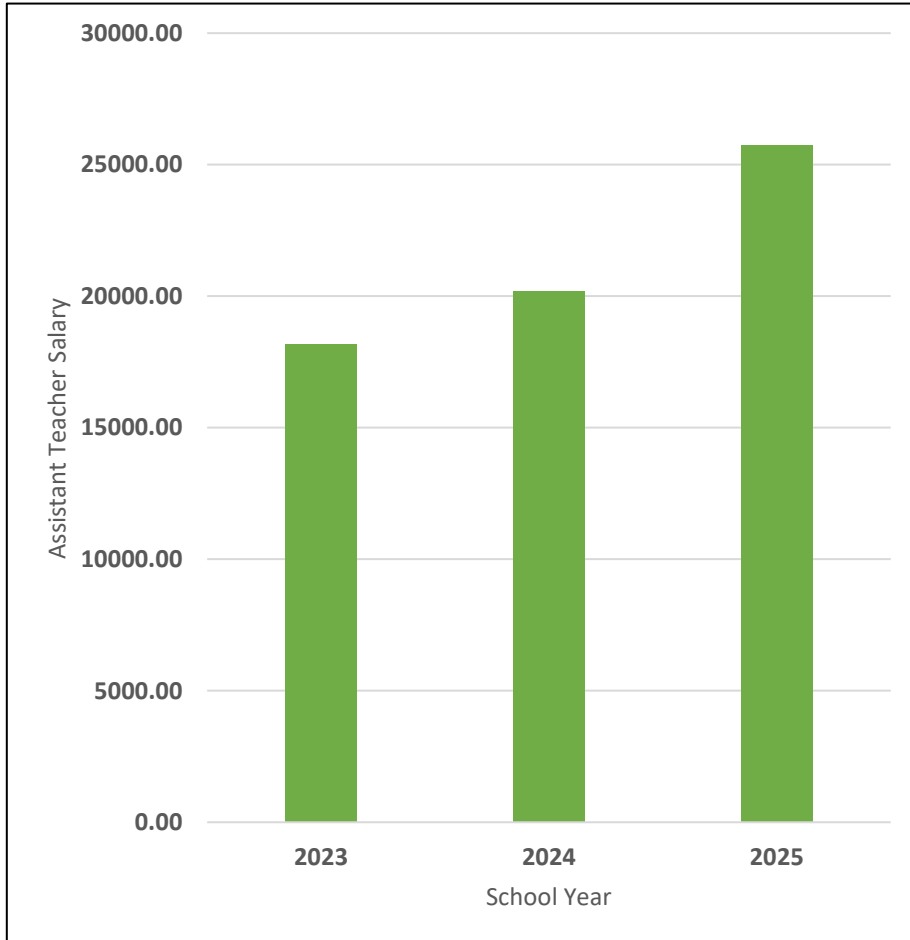


Highest Retention in 2025

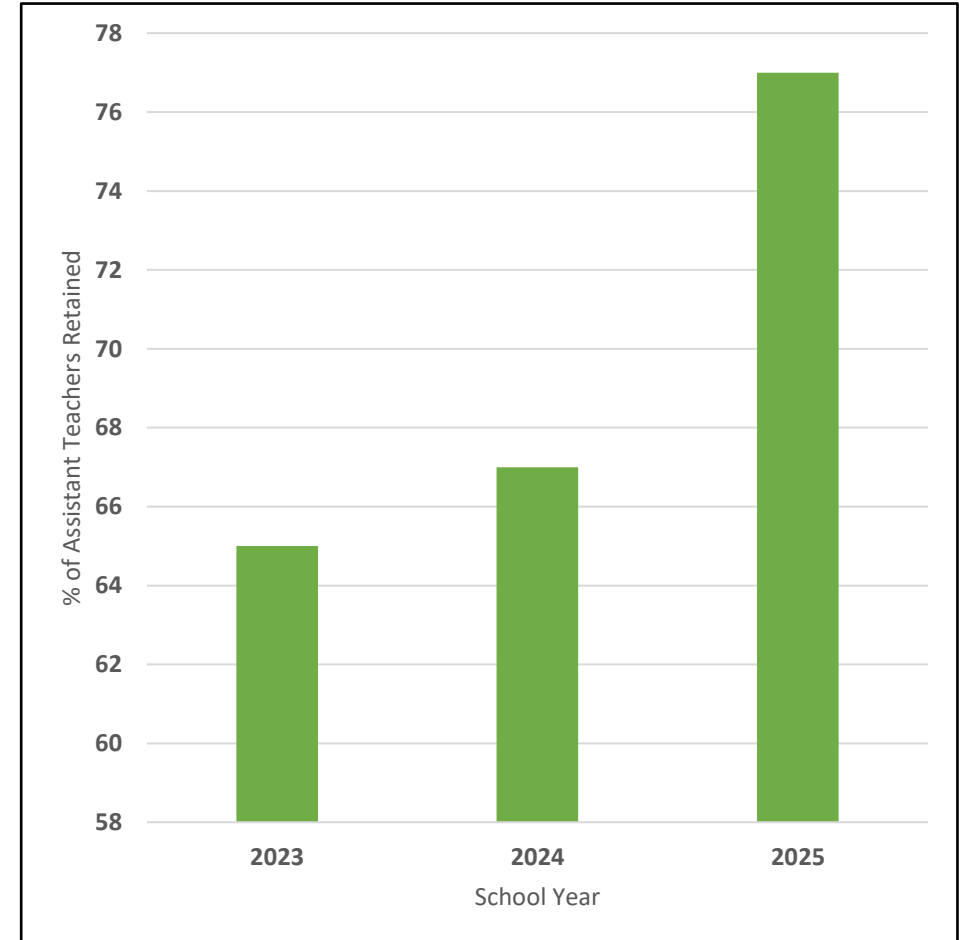


Assistant Teacher Updates

Significant Increase in Salary



Significant Increase in Retention



Pre-K Classroom Refurbishment Funding

- 763 classes received refurbishment
- Paid out in September
- \$15,000 each



Pre-K Classroom Refurbishment Funding



Break

Ten Minutes



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Child Care Services Updates

Pam Stevens, Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services



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CHOP
LOOK
LISTEN



Key Messaging



Key Messaging

CHOPLOOKLISTEN

Pay attention to texture & shape

Hard foods must be cooked or shredded.



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CHOPLOOKLISTEN

Watch out for high risk foods!



Round	Hard
Sticky	Slippery



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CHOPLOOKLISTEN

Size it right for their age & stage

Infant ¼ inch = pea size	Toddler ½ inch = Cheerio size
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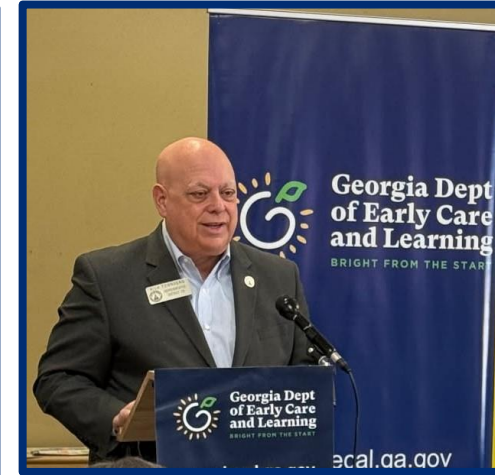
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Public Awareness Campaigns



- Two on-site events held
 - **10/28/25 - Seven Branches Academy, Alpharetta**
 - **11/6/25 - Creative Kids Learning Center & Preschool, Brunswick**
- DECAL, community, and media representation
- Live demonstration to show appropriate and safe food preparation practices
- Director testimonials
- On-going media coverage
- Suite of resources developed
 - flyers, posters, magnets, website





Super Saturday Events

- Two onsite training events held
 - Saturday, 9/27/25 – Atlanta (110 participants)
 - Saturday, 11/15/25 – Dublin
- Collaboration between DECAL divisions and external partners
 - CCS, Infant/Toddler, Nutrition, Child Development, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Trainings topics on:
 - Children's development, anatomy, and how to prevent choking
 - Menu planning and food preparation
 - Mealtime routines and intentional interactions
- Resources provided
- Alignment with Chop, Look, Listen



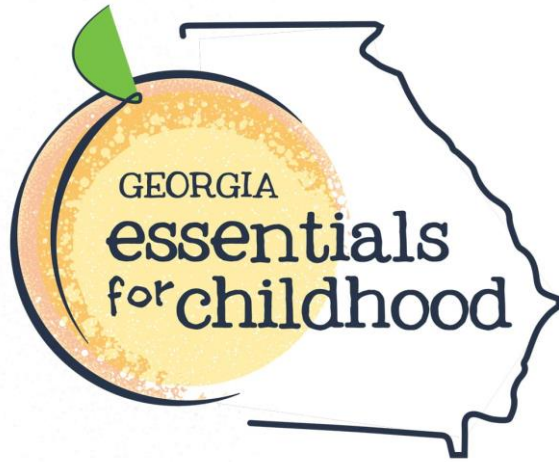




April Rogers, Director of Policy & Enforcement for CCS
received the 2025 Youth Protection Leadership Award
from the Atlanta Area Council of Scouting America.



Prevention Collaboration



Youth Protection



Quality Innovations and Partnerships Updates

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships



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Community Impact Grants

2-year grants designed to address critical needs such as access to early education, literacy, and food insecurity

- 2Gen Innovation Grants for Student Parent Success (5 grantees, \$75,000)
- 2Gen Community Literacy Grants (4 grantees, \$75,000)
- Community Transformation Grants (6 grantees, \$125,000)



Dalton Reads! Mobile Library



2Gen Innovation Grants for Student Parent Success

- APEC Learning Center – Atlanta
- Columbus Technical College – Columbus
- Dalton Public Schools – Dalton
- Kennesaw State University Research and Service Foundation – Kennesaw
- Lowndes/Valdosta Commission for Children & Youth – Valdosta

2Gen Community Literacy Grants

- Coastal Plain Area Economic Opportunity Authority – Valdosta
- Dalton Public Schools – Dalton
- International Rescue Committee Atlanta – Atlanta
- Scottdale Early Learning – Scottdale



Community Transformation Grants

- Black Child Development Institute – Atlanta
- Brooks County Board of Commissioners – Quitman
- Bulloch County Schools – Statesboro
- Cook County Family Connection – Adel
- Georgia State University – Atlanta
- Quality Care for Children – Atlanta



Grantee Meeting – November 13, 2025



Thriving Child Care Business Academy



DECAL
Thriving Child Care
Business Academy

Launched September 26, 2023

An online platform of free training and materials to help owners and administrators acquire the knowledge, skills, and tools to make their centers and homes thriving child care businesses

<https://www.dec.ga.gov/Thriving.aspx>

Helping organizations thrive
CIVITAS
STRATEGIES

 **UNIVERSITY OF**
GEORGIA
Small Business
Development Center

 **NATIONAL CENTER ON**
Early Childhood Quality Assurance

YEAR 1 & 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Total Enrollment **2,997**

Webinars **1,307**

Small Study Groups **1,587**

Individual Coaching **103**

Total Website Views **41,649**

Total Website Users **23,396**



Thriving Child Care Business Academy

Key Year 3 Training & Resources

- **New!** Maximizing Tax Credits Study Group & Supplemental Resources
- **New!** Revenue Stacking in Georgia Study Group
- Utilizing Technology Study Group & Supplemental Resources
- Assessing Business Financial Health Study Group
- Building a Strong Work Culture Study Group
- Financial Planning Study Group
- Mitigating Risk Study Group
- Sales & Marketing Study Group
- Staff Recruitment & Retention Study Group
- Tax Preparation Strategies Study Group
- 30+ Webinars on Various Business Topics
- 88 Bilingual Self-Study Guides & Videos on Various Business Topics
- Individual Coaching Sessions



Quality Rated Resources



QUALITY RATED CHILD CARE

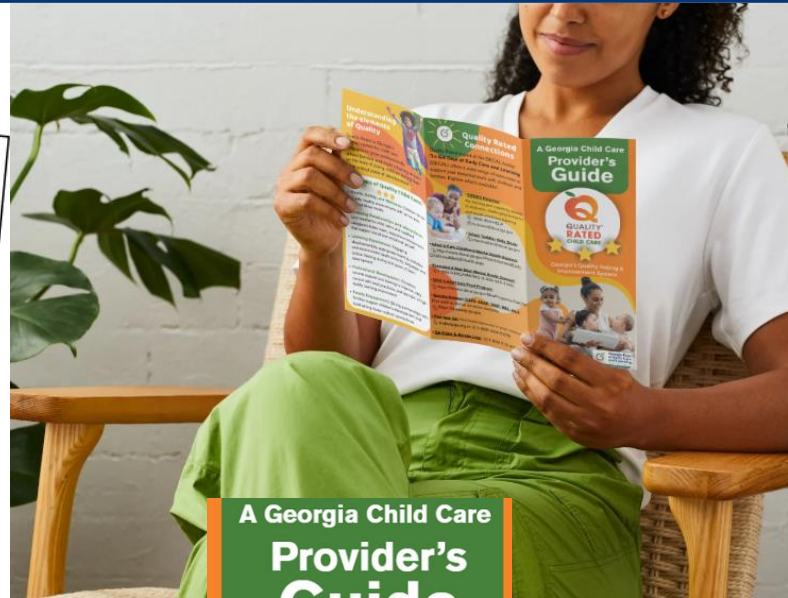
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QUALITY RATED Benefits

Providers participating in Quality Rated have access to benefits, support, and financial incentives!

- Program Support & Tools**
 - GA Early Learning and Development Standards
 - ERS Assessment Tools
 - Tailored Facility Report for Continuous Quality Improvement
 - Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment
 - Family Engagement Self-Assessment
 - Marketing Tools, Authorized use of Logos
 - Access to Enhanced Features on Find Child Care Search Engine at QualityRated.org
- Support Services**
 - Practice-based Coaching
 - Targeted Technical Assistance
 - Peer Support Network
 - Dedicated Provider Support Help Desk
 - Specialized Planning and TA Support for Probationary providers
- Financial Benefits**
 - CAPS Scholarship Eligibility
 - Temporary Scholarship Award (TSA) for Provisional & Probationary Providers
 - Permanent Scholarship Award (PSA) for Rated Providers
 - Commitment to Quality Payments (C2Q) - Paid Quarterly
 - 2-Star Programs: 5% of billed CAPS payments
 - 3-Star Programs: 10% of billed CAPS payments
 - Quality Rated Workforce Bonus (QRWB) - Paid Annually
 - All Star Rated Providers - \$500 per eligible staff member
- Professional Development Opportunities**
 - Free Strengthening Families Training
 - Free Environment Rating Scale Training
 - Access to QR Endorsements
 - Access to Project L.I.T.T.L.E.

Contact Us
855-800-QRIS
QualityRated@dec.al.ga.gov
Visit Our Website
<https://qualityrated.dec.al.ga.gov>



A Georgia Child Care Provider's Guide



Georgia's Quality Rating & Improvement System



QUALITY RATED Payments

- ★ Provide Quality Care
- ★ Make a Difference
- ★ Be recognized for Your Impact

QR Workforce Bonus

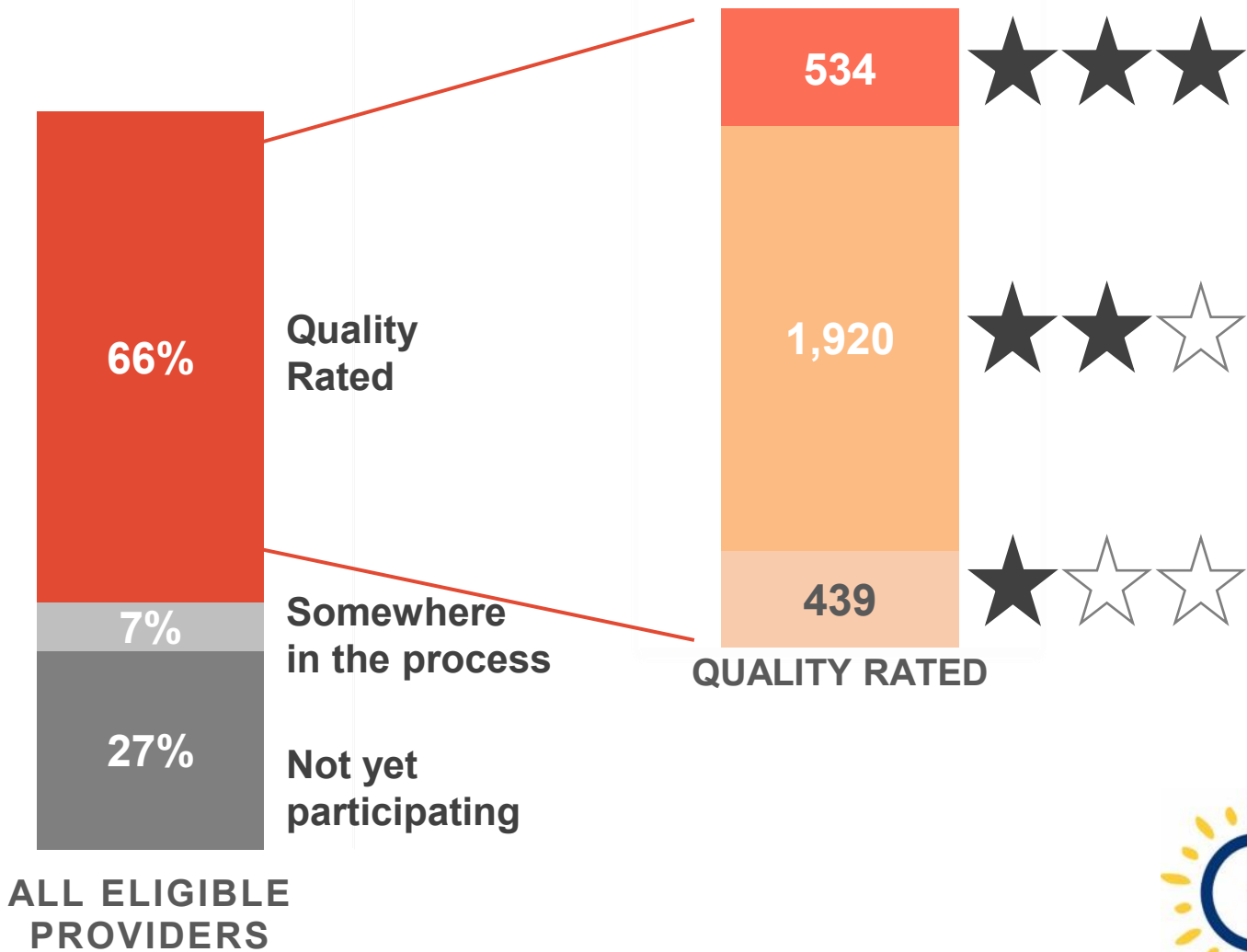
- Annual \$500 bonus paid directly to staff in all Star Rated child care programs
- Eligibility requirements apply
- Staff applies annually during their program's designated Payment Application Month

Commitment to Quality (C2Q)

- Quarterly payments to 2- and 3-Star Rated child care programs
- Programs must participate in CAPS
- 2-Star Programs receive 5% of billed CAPS payments.
- 3-Star Programs receive 10% of billed CAPS payments.

For more information, contact Care Solutions:
Visit <https://dec.alqrpayments.com> Email support@dec.alqrpayments.com
Call 800-227-3410, ext. 613

Quality Rated by the Numbers



Quality Rated Workforce Bonus



21,726

total applications



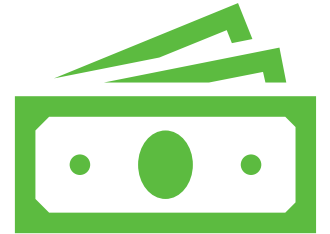
17,146

staff received QRWB



92%

providers have staff that
received QRWB



\$8.5 million

distributed



Quality Study

- DECAL is partnering with Child Trends to conduct a statewide study of quality in licensed child care programs.
- From August through December, Child Trends will be reaching out to randomly selected programs to ask them to participate.
- Participation includes classroom observations, surveys, and gift cards for participating programs and teachers. Data collection has started.

Recruitment Progress as of 11/17/2025

	# of Programs Recruited	Target Sample	% of Target Achieved
CCLCs	107	140	76%
FCCLHs	22	60	37%
Standalone School-Age	47	40	118%
TOTAL	176	240	73%



QR Advisory Committee



Nov-Dec 2025 Recruitment Phase

- Release and Score applications
- Potential committee members contacted
- Release Commitment to Serve agreement



Sept – Oct 2025 Planning Phase

- Convene planning team
- Develop committee member application and scoring rubric

2026 Committee Meetings

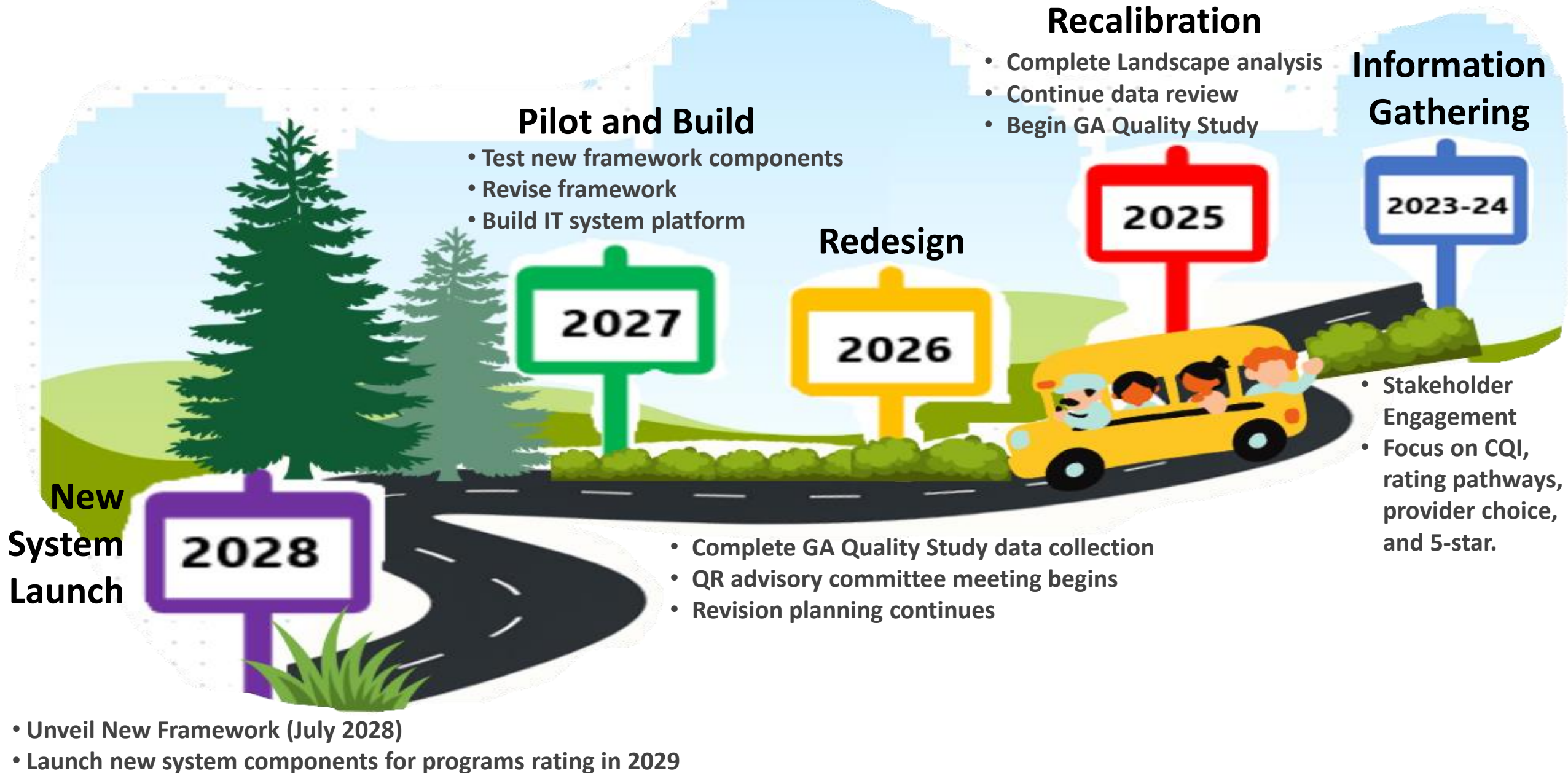
- Qtr. 1 - March
- Qtr. 2 - June
- Qtr. 3 - September
- Qtr. 4 - December

January 2026 Orientation Phase

- Orientation virtual meeting for new committee members
- Finalize dates and locations for 2026 committee meetings



QR System Revision Roadmap



Quality Rated Family Support Call Center



Supports DECAL's mission of ensuring that Georgia's youngest learners and their families have access to high-quality care and early education by delivering comprehensive, streamlined, and enhanced services.

- ✓ Referrals to Quality Rated Providers
- ✓ Child Care Program Enrollment Help
- ✓ Information on & Direct Transfers to DECAL Programs
- ✓ Assistance in Multiple Languages



Quality Rated Family Support Call Center



Launched July 1, 2025

1 Manager + 4 Referral Specialists



Accomplishments*

3,971 Families Contacted & Served

2,701 Families Using Phone Line Served

1,270 Families Using QR.org Served

7,117 QR Providers Referred to Families

71 Enhanced Referrals

**As of November 1, 2025*



Call Center in Action

- Grandparent in Cook County
- Father in Carroll County

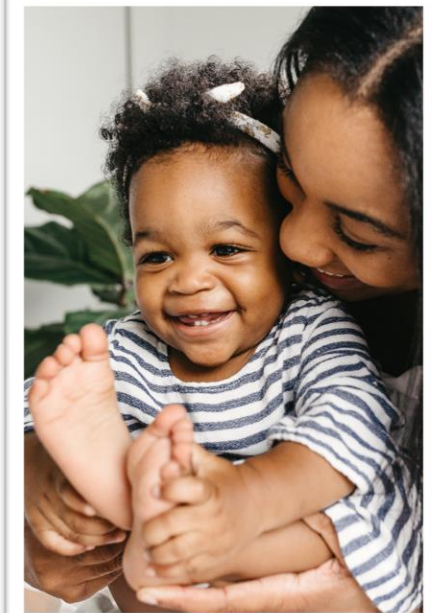


**FAMILY SUPPORT
CALL CENTER**

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FINDQRCARE@DECAL.GA.GOV



Quality Rated Family Support Call Center

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For Finding High-Quality
Child Care & Much More!

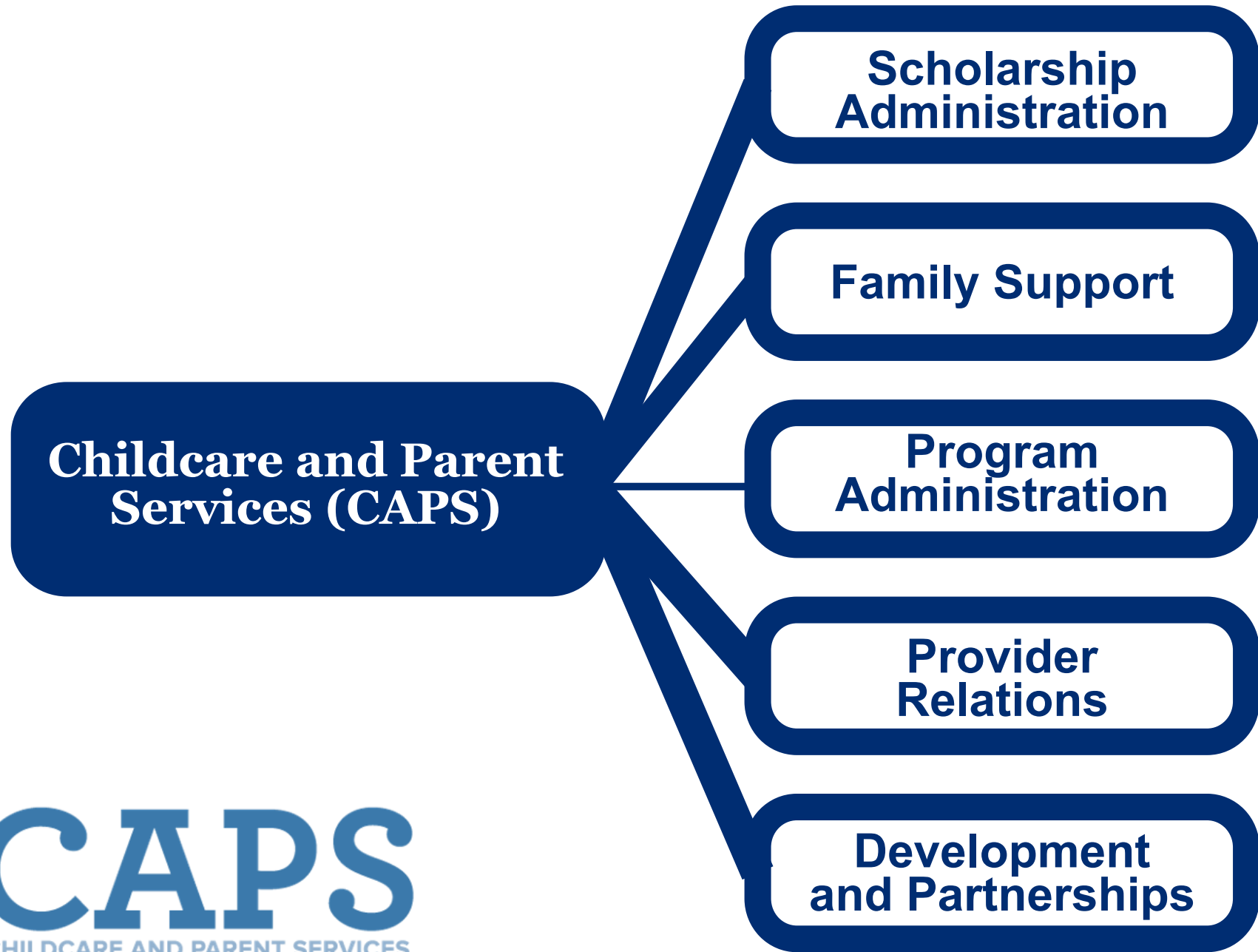


Federal Programs Updates

Sheila Williams, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Families and Eligibility



Georgia Dept
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and Learning
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CAPS
CHILDCARE AND PARENT SERVICES



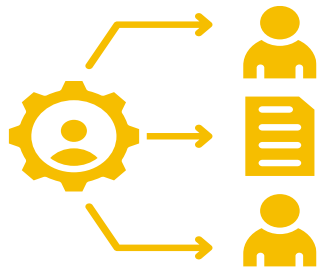
CAPS Workload Overview



Application Processing



Provider and Family Support



Ongoing Case Management



Increased Eligibility Limits Effective October 2025



- The Very Low-Income threshold increased from 10% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 30% of the FPL.
- The initial eligibility threshold increased from 30% of the State Median Income (SMI) to 40% of the SMI.



Hello, **Rachel**. You are logged in.

CAPS Pre-Application Screener

Let's get started! In order to determine whether you meet CAPS application submission requirements for a CAPS scholarship, please complete the following the bottom of the page.

*Fields marked with (*) are mandatory, and must be filled out before continuing with your application.*

Household Information

* Do you currently live in the State of Georgia?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

* Do you have an existing CAPS case in which you would like to report a Change?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

* Do you have an existing Childcare case that needs to be renewed?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Please enter a CAPS ID if you are applying for a renewal. CAPS IDs must be 8 characters long. If your CAPS ID is less than 8 characters long, please use leading zeros.
For example, for CAPS ID 1234, enter 00001234

* Are you enrolled in an educational or training program? ⓘ

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

* Have you, or the child(ren) in your care, experienced domestic violence? ⓘ

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

* Are you currently experiencing homelessness? ⓘ

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

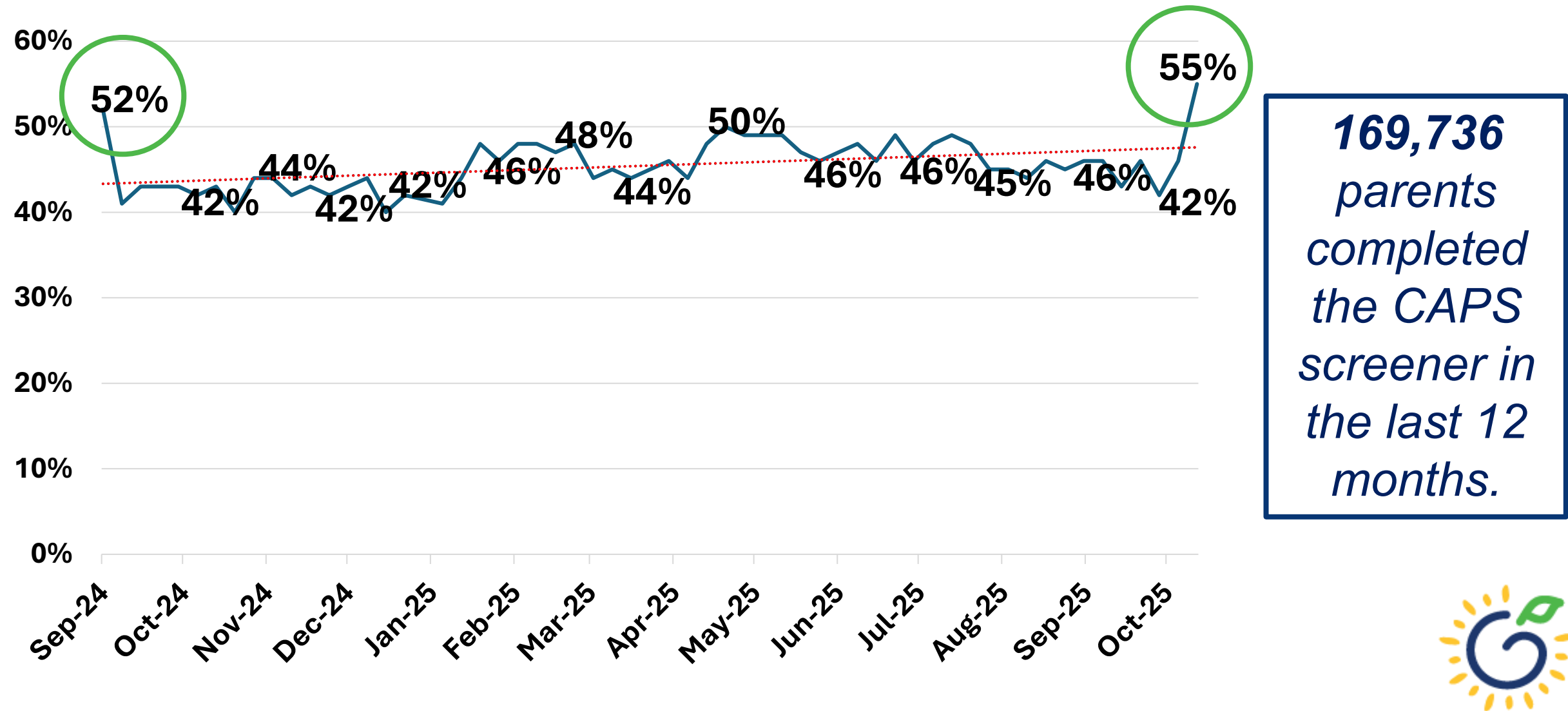
* Do you have a Social Services Case Manager assisting you or your family at this time? ⓘ

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

CAPS Gateway Application Screener



Screener Pass Rate Increased with Eligibility Change in October 2025



CAPS Initial Applications Received

1,178 applications per week on average



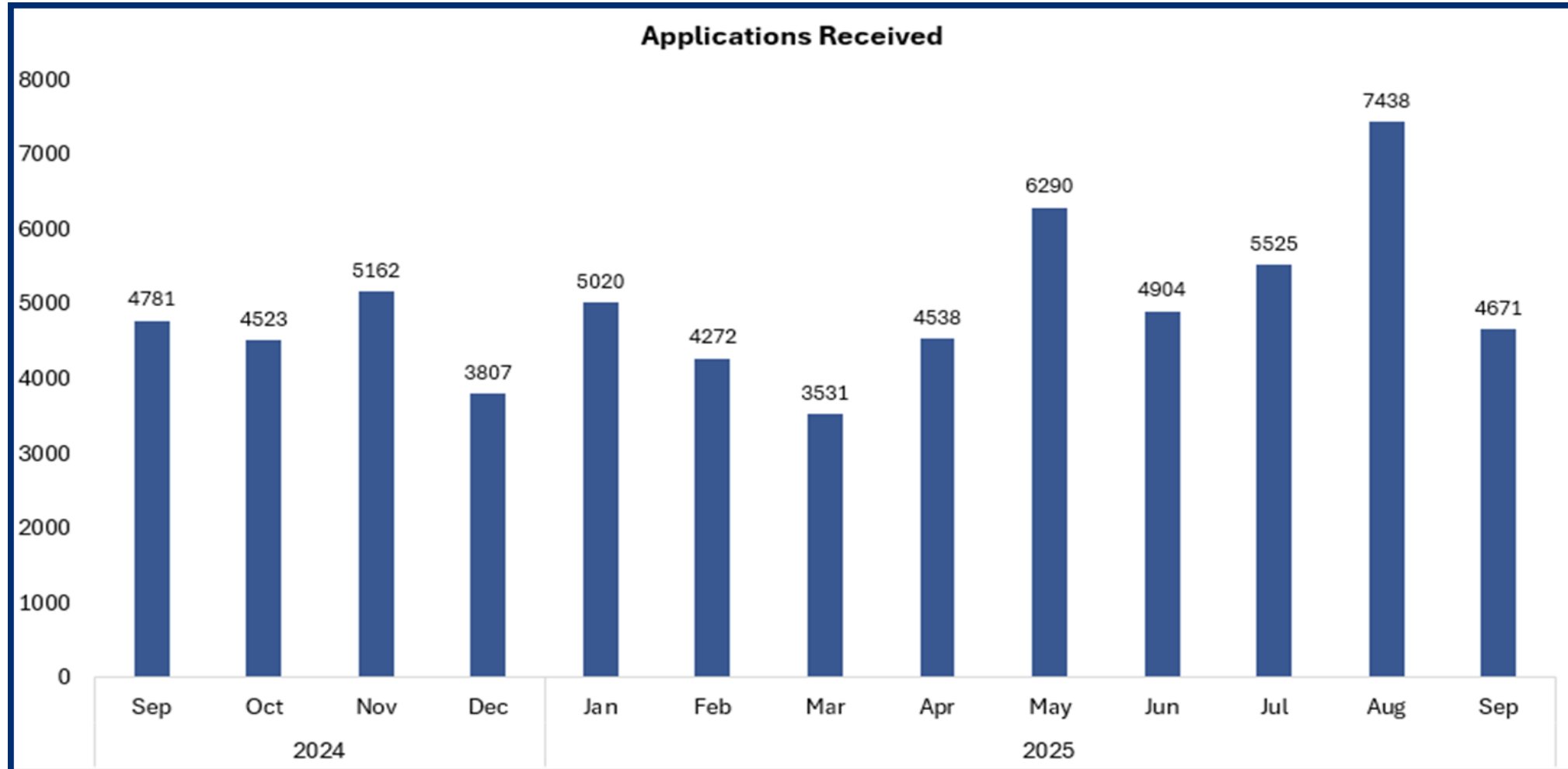
66,155 total applications received



16% of applications were approved



Application Distribution Across the Year



CAPS Renewal Applications Received in FY2025

3682 applications per month on average



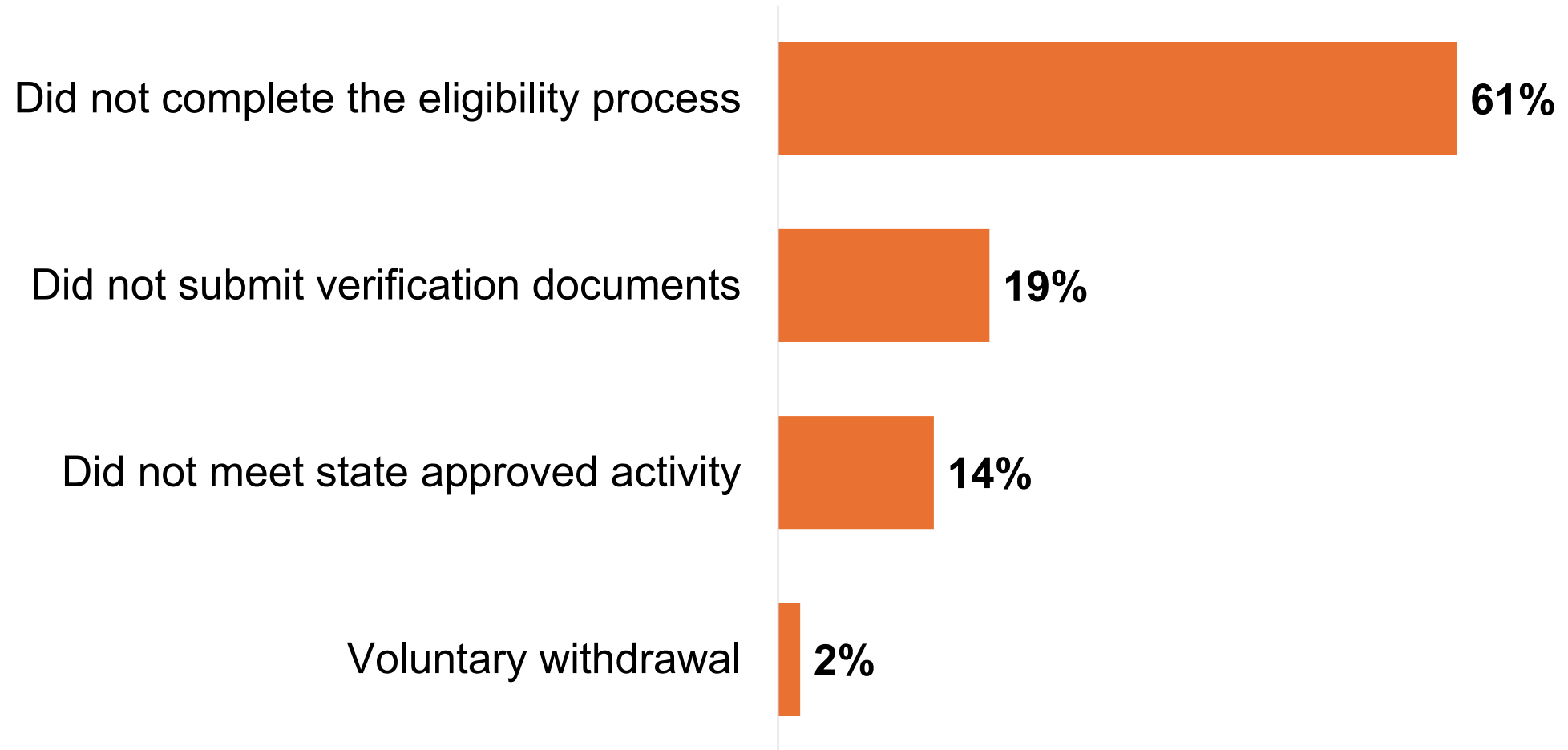
47,870 total applications received



49% of applications were approved



Top Reasons Renewals Were Not Approved



Quality Reviews



- To ensure ongoing compliance and high-quality customer service, CAPS conducts comprehensive quality reviews each month
- From October 2024 to September 2025, **9,828 cases** and **5,507 calls** were reviewed
- On average completed 819 case reviews and 459 call reviews per month.
- Increasing quality reviews has resulted in few errors



Calls Handled

In FY2025, CAPS handled **404,361** calls.



219,176 outgoing



185,185 incoming



CAPS Student Parents

- **1 out of 5 applications self-identify as a student-parent.**
- **Nearly twice as many student parent applications are approved, at a rate of 28%.**



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Find Help Georgia Use in FY2025



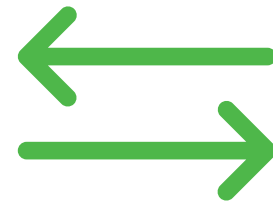
213,546

Unique Searches



87,635

Distinct Users



181,903

Interactions



32,374

Connections





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.



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Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

Public Comment

November 20, 2025



**Georgia Dept
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Committee Reports



Georgia Dept
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Board Meeting Dates 2026

-
- February 19, 2026
 - May 21, 2026
 - August 27, 2026
 - November 19, 2026

