



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

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DECAL Announces 2026 Road Shows for
Georgia's Early Care and Education Community**

Regional events will connect child care providers face to face with agency leadership and staff.

ATLANTA, Ga., (September 24, 2026) – The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), in partnership with Child Trends, a leading nonprofit and nonpartisan research organization dedicated to improving the lives and prospects of children, youth, and families, will host a series of regional road shows for child care providers in October 2026. Child care providers will have the opportunity to hear updates from agency leadership, participate in educational breakout sessions, and meet with DECAL staff.

The road shows serve a dual purpose. DECAL staff will share information and resources, and the agency leadership also wants to hear from providers. Each event will include a plenary session, educational breakout groups, and an exhibition hall where child care providers can learn about all of DECAL's programs and services and meet with DECAL staff. One of the breakout groups at each event will be a focus group conducted by Child Trends to collect information about providers' needs.

“These road shows are an important opportunity for us to meet providers where they are, share timely information, and strengthen our connection with the people who support Georgia’s youngest learners every day,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “We look forward to hearing directly from providers and sharing tools and resources that can support their work.”

Dates and Locations

Date	Location
October 15, 2026	UGA Campus Conference Center, Tifton
October 20, 2026	Clarence Brown Conference Center, Cartersville
October 22, 2026	Morrow Center (Southlake Mall), Morrow
October 29, 2026	Georgia Southern University CPE Center, Statesboro

Event Schedule

Time	Activity
8:15 a.m.	Registration Opens
9:00 a.m.	Plenary Session
10:00 a.m.	Breakout Sessions
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Exhibition Hall

Breakout Learning Opportunities

Participants will be able to select two breakout sessions from a menu of five topics designed to address current needs and priorities in early care and education. Breakout session topics include:

- Needs Assessment conducted by Child Trends
- Quality Rated
- Child Care Services
- The New GELDS
- Behavior Support
- Criminal Records Checks (CRCs)

Exhibition Hall

The Exhibition Hall will feature more than a dozen informational tables representing every program area within DECAL. Child care providers will have a chance to:

- Meet DECAL staff
- Learn about available services and resources
- Ask questions about programs and initiatives
- Connect with experts across the agency
- Discover tools and supports available to providers and families

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About DECAL

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is the state agency supporting Georgia's children and families by overseeing and promoting access to high-quality early care and education programs.

These programs include Georgia's Pre-K, child care licensing, CAPS, Quality Rated, nutrition programs, Head Start collaboration, and statewide quality improvement efforts. Get more information at www.decal.ga.gov.