



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

**Brian P. Kemp**  
Governor

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
Commissioner

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DECAL Releases New Economic Impact Study of  
Early Care and Education in Georgia**

*Collaboration between University of Georgia and Georgia State University looks at  
Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic*

**ATLANTA, Ga., (March 28, 2024)** – The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has released the results of our most recent Economic Impact Study, which evaluates the importance of the early care and education (ECE) industry to the state’s economy. The Executive Summary of this report can be found [here](#).

This is the third Economic Impact Study we have commissioned, following the first in 2008 and the second in 2016. Like previous studies, this report is a collaboration between researchers at the Georgia State University Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and the University of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Reports from the previous studies can be found [here](#).

This report covers changes in Georgia’s ECE industry between 2019 and 2020. The report provides an overview of the industry and details impacts from the pandemic.

**About DECAL**

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) 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.decalf.ga.gov](http://www.decalf.ga.gov).