



The GA Pre-K 411: Teacher Edition

Welcome!

Welcome to YOUR newsletter... a news resource specifically created and tailored to you, our amazing Georgia's Pre-K Teachers! We anticipate publishing this newsletter quarterly to provide you with tools, resources, and information from DECAL that is important and meaningful to the job you do everyday. Your work is vital to the success of Georgia's youngest learners and our job is to share with you the latest news and information to support our mission to ensure safe, positive, and high quality learning experiences for Georgia's children.

To kick us off, we would first like to express our gratitude to all of you as you've successfully started a new school year and helped your new students and families feel welcome. We know the beginning of the year does not come without challenges and we know you have met those head on as you've built relationships with your colleagues, your students, and their families. We all learn from one another and connecting with those around you will create maximum impact.

We are also excited to share that our 14th Annual Georgia Pre-K Week was a great success! Thank you for your excitement, your creativity, and your hospitality. More than 800 schools across the state participated with more than 100 guest readers in and out of your wonderful classrooms. It is an amazing experience for state legislators and leaders to have the opportunity to step inside your world and see the hard work you do, the enthusiasm and engagement of your students, and the positive classroom environments you have created for your students. Pre-K Week is a fun way to celebrate all that Pre-K provides to children!

Click the Pre-K Week logo below to see a gallery of the fantastic photos submitted by programs across the state!



Thank you for your continued dedication to the work you do!

Enjoy your first newsletter!

*Georgia's
Pre-K :)*



In this newsletter you can find...

You asked;
we answered!
FAQ's you can
use!

BftS Training
Information

WSO Tips +
Reminders

Meet CALi

DECAL Scholars

GA SEEDS

Get to Know the
24-25 Georgia's
Pre-K Teachers
of the Year

The Pre-K Scoop



Q: Where can I find the new salary schedule so I can determine my correct salary?

A. The new salary schedule is on the [Georgia's Pre-K Page of the DECAL website](#). Click on the Project Director button, and then click the + beside Teacher Salary Information and Resources Tab.

Q. If my salary is more per the new state salary schedule, should I receive payment for the difference for my August and September paychecks since they were less money?

A. Yes, if your salary is more starting in October, then DECAL paid your school for the difference for your August and September salary. Actual compensation for an individual teacher may vary based on the number of days and hours worked.

Q. Am I required to receive holiday pay for days that my school is closed?

A. No, schools are not required to pay for days when they are closed over the holidays. This is a decision that your employer makes and should be reflected in your contract/work agreement. Any questions regarding this should be directed to your Pre-K Project Director.

DECAL Teacher Training

Be sure to read your confirmation email from GaPDS Support (gapds@decals.ga.gov) completely so you can save the date and make appropriate arrangements for class coverage, travel, children, pets and other obligations.

Before attending **Understanding Challenging Behavior** or **New Lead or Assistant Teacher Training** you **MUST** watch the 1-hour [Pyramid Model overview podcast](#) and complete this [survey](#).

Remember that every training has online coursework to be completed after attending face-to-face training. You will find instructions for logging in and the link to the platform here: [Online Coursework - Best Practices Training \(gsu.edu\)](#) It is recommended that you complete the quiz and assignment within four weeks of attending training. The deadline to complete the coursework for *New Lead or Assistant Teacher Training (PERIOD 1)*, *Work Sampling Online (pre-recorded)*, and *Recipes for Success in Center Time (pre-recorded)* is 4:00 pm on December 11th.

Click the PLAY button to watch a video to learn how to access your Online Coursework!



WSO Tips + Reminders

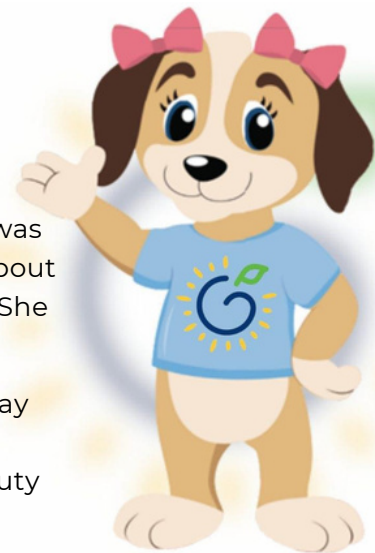
- When a student disenrolls from your class, enter any outstanding data and 'archive' the student as quickly as possible. This enables us to transfer their record to the new teacher without any delay.
- When adding a student, please doublecheck the entry of the Student ID for accuracy before clicking 'Save.' It is easy to accidentally transpose the ID and the value entered belongs to another student. This prevents other teachers from being able to enter their students in a timely manner.
- Every student in WSO should have a Period 1 Checklist. If you have not yet created the Period 1 Checklist for every student on your WSO roster, please do so now.
- It's nearing the end of period 1. Are you new to WSO and haven't attended training yet? If so, this is for you!
 - Schedule family conferences with each family
 - Use the work sampling progress report to document and share student development.
 - Print 2 copies - one for parents to keep and one for them to sign and leave with you. You need to have a signed report for every student.
 - You can find the report in the list of resources [here](#).

Agency Awareness

Meet CALi

CALi is the official Bright from the Start: DECAL Spokespuppy! She was adopted by Commissioner Jacobs in 2015 to help spread the word about all DECAL's departments that support Georgia's youngest learners. She is known for her fun dance moves, big hugs, and high fives.

CALi is a playful addition to events such as Pre-K Week, Children's Day at the Capitol, Children's Mental Health Week, and Inclusive Early Learning Week as well on the road with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners visiting programs and classrooms!



**Shake Your Sillies
Out with CALi!**



In Pre-K resources, you can find her in many Scripted Stories, such as this popular one:

[CALi is a Super Friend!](#)

DECAL Scholars

The DECAL Scholars programs for early childhood educators offer scholarships for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and, for various college credentials and degrees. Additionally, the programs provide incentive salary bonuses and educational counseling services. DECAL Scholars is funded DECAL and is managed by Care Solutions, Inc.

DECAL Scholars has recently implemented policy updates and introduced a new application processing system. We encourage you to explore the newly designed DECAL Scholars website at www.decalscholars.com. You can review the recent policy updates [here](#).



GA Seeds: Inclusion & Behavior Support

1.833.354.HELP
GEORGIA SEEDS for SUCCESS



Let us introduce ourselves -
We are **GA SEEDS** (Georgia's Social Emotional Early Development Strategies)!

Our unit is the **Inclusion & Behavior Support Program**, and our job is to help teachers support all children in the classroom. Below are some of the services we provide:

- Coaching services for engaging children
- Professional development on inclusion practices and social emotional learning
- Georgia SEEDS Helpline

For more information scan the QR code or click the link:
decal.ga.gov



Meet the 2024-2025 Georgia's Pre-K Teachers of the Year



Elizabeth Arthur

Elizabeth is a native of Lincolnton, Georgia, where she has been teaching Pre-K for the last 10 years at Lincoln County Elementary School. Her Pre-K students believe she can sing like Beyonce, dance like a solid gold dancer, and have the artistic ability of Picaso. They love her unconditionally and that is what keeps her going in this career! She graduated from Brenau Women's College in Gainesville, Georgia with a BS in Middle Grades Education and taught middle school for seven years. She has also received a National Geographic Certification and certification in Birth through Five. She is married with two children that kept her extremely busy with sports through high school and now with college life. She enjoys cooking, gardening, attending all sports & XO parent events at UGA, coaching high school cheerleading, and traveling around the world with her family and friends.



Rachel Robertson

Rachel lives in Oconee County. She received her bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Georgia College and State University in 2007. She received her master's degree in elementary education from American College of Education in 2021. She teaches the Georgia Pre-K inclusion class at Oconee Preschool Academy in Watkinsville, where she has been teaching since 2020. She loves building relationships with her students and their families. She has known many of her current students since they were babies! In her free time you can find her cheering on her sons in their various sports, going on walks with her husband, reading, or planning their next beach trip.



*To hear from the teachers, listen to the TOTY podcast episode on the DECAL Download airing Nov. 19th!

Thank you for reading!

CONTACT /FOLLOW US!



Join us weekly
on the DECAL
Download Podcast

800-413-9935



2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 745, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

Extra, Extra!

DECAL Scholars
MANAGED BY SOLUTIONS

DECAL Scholars programs, funded by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), empower Georgia's early childhood educators to advance their careers and provide exceptional care and education to children and families. We envision a future where educators are dedicated to their profession, achieve their educational goals, and contribute to the highest standards of early childhood education in Georgia.

DECAL Scholars programs for early childhood educators include Scholarships for the CDA credential and college credentials and degrees, Incentives salary bonuses, and educational counseling services. DECAL Scholars programs are managed by Care Solutions, Inc.

Explore DECAL Scholars Programs

Educational Counseling

Educational counselors are available to help early childhood educators navigate necessary steps towards advancing their education.

Incentives

Incentives is Georgia's program that rewards early childhood educators with an annual payment who have recently earned a credential or degree in early childhood education.

CDA Scholarships

CDA Scholarships is Georgia's educational assistance program for early childhood educators pursuing their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

Academic Scholarships

Academic Scholarships is Georgia's educational assistance program for early childhood educators pursuing credentials or degrees in early childhood education.

To learn more or get started, visit www.decalscholars.com. Or you can call us at 770-642-6722 ext. 602 or email support@decalscholars.com.

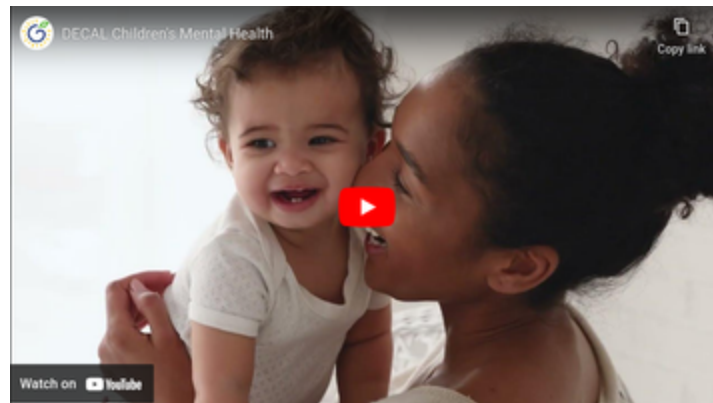
DECAL Scholars
MANAGED BY SOLUTIONS

Now available

Create a profile and opt-in to text messages for your chance to win a \$100 Amazon gift card!

Visit decalscholars.com/contest to watch a step-by-step video guide on creating your new profile.

We all have a role in promoting children's mental health and wellness through strong connections and supportive and nurturing relationships.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit the [Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health \(IECMH\) page](#) on our website.

Explore the resources for early childhood educators at the bottom!

DECAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH
WILL YOU BE THE ONE?

Pyramid Model

Each Pyramid Model Preschool Classroom Kit includes:

- Tucker Turtle Kit
- Problem Solver Solution Kit
- Classroom Visual Display Kit
- Emotional Literacy Kit
- Super Friends Kit

diagrams may not show all materials contained in each kit

ICYMI

GA Pre-K classrooms received Pyramid model kits in 2023 to support SEL. We have a video series to unpack the kit and help you discover ways to use it! Visit the [Pre-K Page of the DECAL Website](#), Click on Teachers, and Click the + beside The Pyramid Model to watch the videos.

RESOURCES FOR THE GEORGIA'S PRE-K TEACHER

- + General Information
- + Emergency Closure Resources
- + Social and Emotional Tools
- + Family Engagement and...
- **The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Development in Young Children**
 - The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Development in Young Children
 - Unpacking the Pyramid Model Kit - Emotional Literacy
 - Unpacking the Pyramid Model Kit - Problem Solver Solution Kit
 - Unpacking the Pyramid Model Kit - Super Friend Kit
 - Unpacking the Pyramid Model Kit - Tucker Turtle Kit