



Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Reg Griffin
404-656-0239
reg.griffin@dec.al.ga.gov



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.

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.