



## BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
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**Brian P. Kemp**  
GOVERNOR

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
COMMISSIONER

### For Immediate Release

## **DECAL Announces the 2022 Quality Rated Language and Literacy Endorsement Program**

*Applications Accepted February 4-25, 2022*

**ATLANTA – February 4, 2022** – The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is inviting child care providers to apply to participate in a program to earn a 2022 Quality Rated Language and Literacy Endorsement and create high-quality, language rich environments for the children in their care.

Governor Brian Kemp asked DECAL to create the Endorsement to advance his policy priority to improve student literacy by training and supporting child care providers to enhance language skills among the children they serve. In 2021, the Governor and DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs awarded the first Endorsements to eight child care centers that completed the rigorous program.

“Child care providers expressed a lot of interest in the Language and Literacy Endorsement when we began, and we are pleased to provide an opportunity for other providers to earn this special recognition,” said Commissioner Jacobs. “Earning this Endorsement demonstrates that a provider takes seriously its responsibility to help prepare Georgia’s children for success in school and in life.”

The application to be considered for participation in this year’s Endorsement program will be posted to DECAL’s website at <http://www.decals.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/Grants.aspx> on February 4, 2022 and must be submitted by 5 p.m. on February 25, 2022. To be eligible, applicants must:

- be a licensed child care learning center (CCLC) in good standing with DECAL
- have a current Quality Rated star rating of 2 or 3 stars
- ensure that the provider site’s director and up to one additional administrator are willing and able to participate in online trainings and meetings with leaders from other Endorsement sites from April 2022 until March 2023
- ensure that at least one lead teacher from each of at least 75% of the provider site’s infant, toddler, preschool, and pre-k classrooms are willing and able to participate in online trainings from April 2022 until February 2023
- be willing to participate in evaluation activities, including surveys and interviews

DECAL will announce the selected providers by April 8, 2022. The Endorsement program will last from April 2022 until early 2023. Participants in the program will receive literacy resources for their participating classrooms, a technology grant, a growth materials package, and high-quality professional development for teachers and administrators. The Endorsement will be valid for three years if the program maintains its Quality Rated status.

For additional information about the 2022 Endorsement, email Laura Wagner, Community Outreach and Partnerships Director, at [laura.wagner@decalfga.gov](mailto:laura.wagner@decalfga.gov).

### **About Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

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, 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.decalfga.gov](http://www.decalfga.gov).