

Quality Rated Provider Webinar 2026 Updates

September 24, 2025
12:00-1:00 PM



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

Overview



- The QR Journey So Far
- What's New for 2026
- Coming Soon – A Look Ahead





The Journey So Far



QR Reorganization

QR Development and Business Operations

- Quality Assurance
- QR Payments
- QR Project Development and Education Supports

QR Regional Operations

- Environment Rating Scale Observations
- Structural Quality Standards - Portfolio
- QR Cohort Management



Quality Rated Family Support Call Center

Launched July 1, 2025

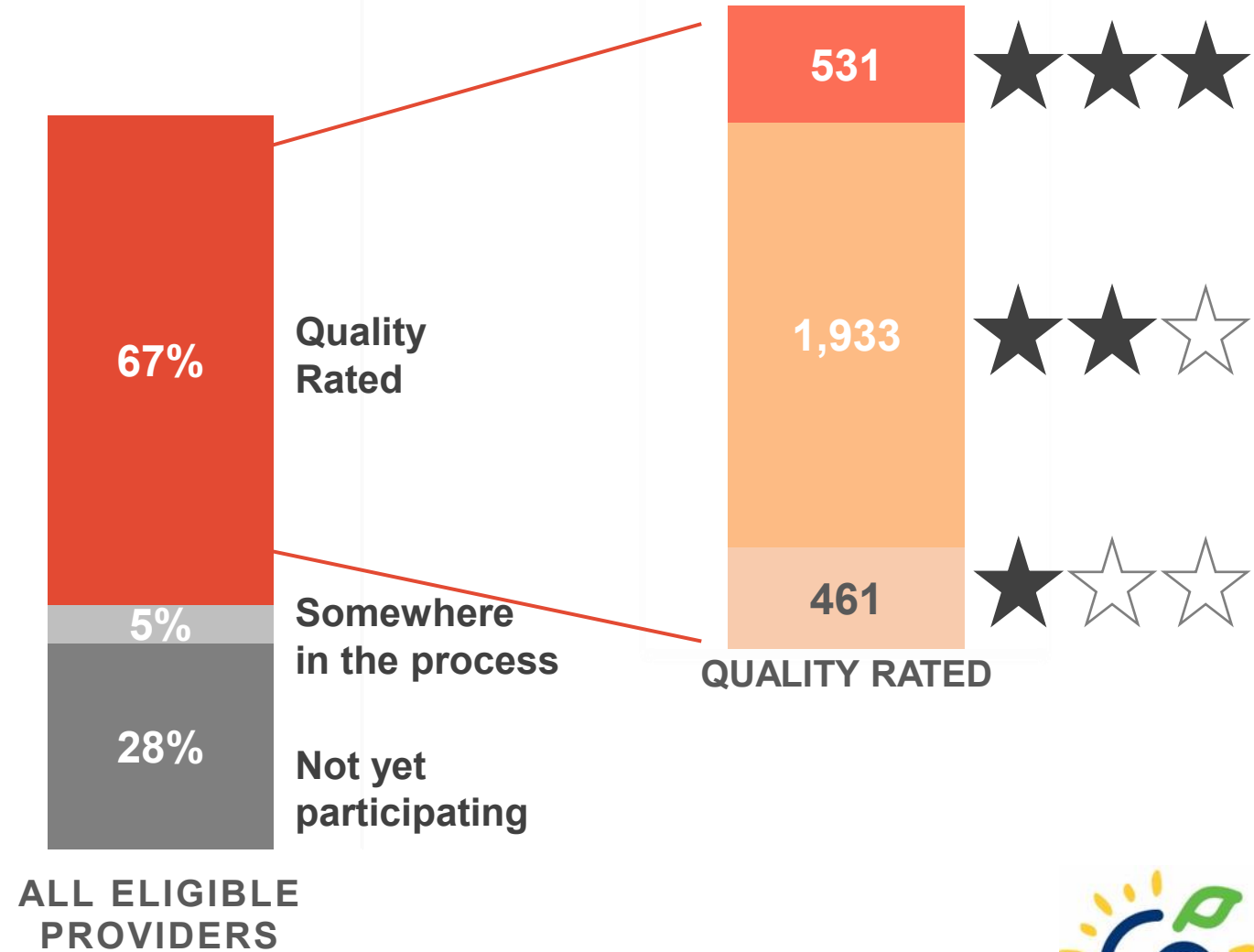
1 Manager + 4 Referral Specialists



Quality Rated NAPA Endorsements Awarded



Quality Rated by the Numbers



QR Workforce Bonus Update

16,074

Total Number of **Applications** for QRWB

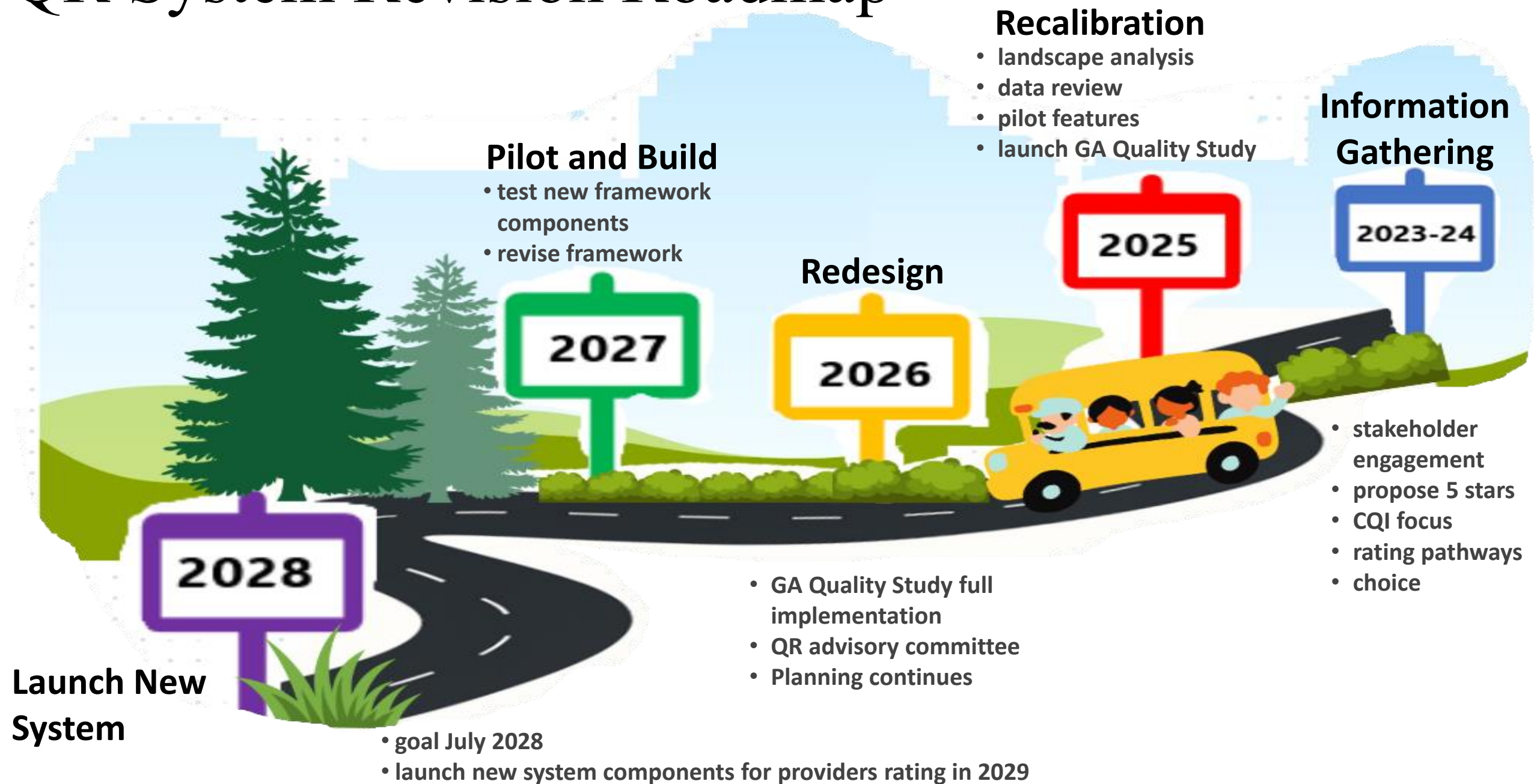
13,022 Staff Have Received QRWB

1,596 Providers (82%) w/ Staff that Received QRWB

\$6.5 Million in QRWB Funds Distributed Since April

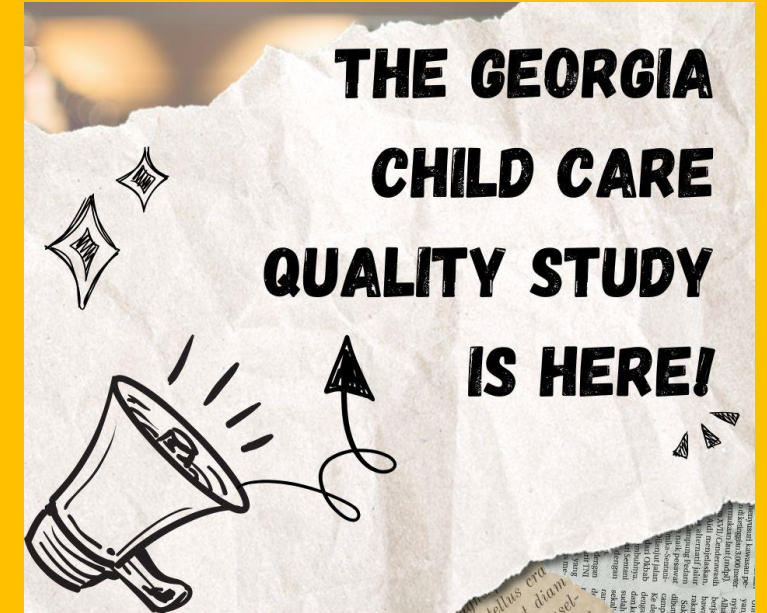


QR System Revision Roadmap



Child Care Quality

- Between August and December, Child Trends will contact randomly selected programs for participation.
- Participation includes classroom observations, surveys, and gift cards for programs and teachers.





What's New for 2026



2026 Cohorts



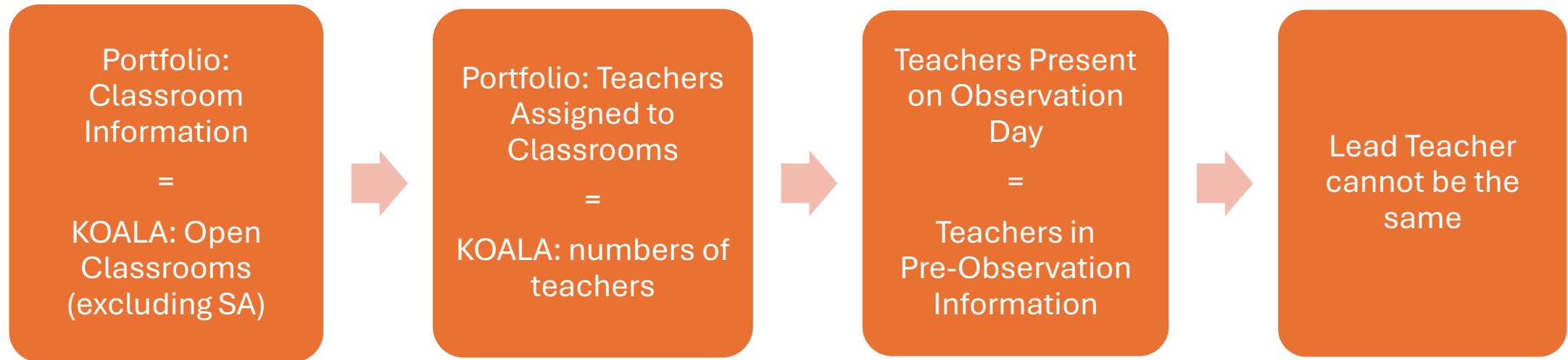
- **Complete and submit *new application*** to access 2026 cohort information
- **Monday, September 22, 2025**
Cohort Slots released to *Expiring 2026 Programs*
- **Monday, October 20, 2025**
Any remaining slots released to *all other Programs*
- **Requests to Rerate Early** Consider current staff needs, time factors, and most recent CQI reports



2026 Cohort Dates

2026 Cohort	Slot Availability	Submission Window Start Date	Submission Window End Date	Observation Window Start Date	Observation Window End Date	Rating Announcement Window
1	Center Slots 255 Family Slots 50	11.21.2025	12.5.2025	1.9.2026	3.31.2026	rating announced within 8 weeks following the last ERS observation.
2	Center Slots 250 Family Slots 50	2.20.2026	3.6.2026	4.6.2026	6.30.2026	rating announced within 8 weeks following the last ERS observation.
3	Center Slots 250 Family Slots 50	5.22.2026	6.5.2026	7.6.2026	9.30.2026	rating announced within 8 weeks following the last ERS observation.
4	Center Slots 240 Family Slots 50	8.21.2026	9.4.2026	10.5.2026	12.31.2026	rating announced within 8 weeks following the last ERS observation.

Ensuring Continuity Across DECAL Programs & Within Quality Rated



IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

QR reserves the right to conduct a new random selection if major discrepancies in classroom information are found

Aligning Star Ratings to Classroom Practices

Inadequate	Minimal	Good	Excellent
1	3	5	7
Indicates areas where care practices may need strengthening to better support children's development, health, and safety.	Indicates dependable care that reflects a commitment to going beyond state licensing requirements	Indicates solid practices, implementing essential strategies that align with children's needs and promote consistent, supportive interactions.	Indicates high quality personalized care, expands children's experiences, extends their learning, and provides warm and caring support

Aligning Star Ratings to Classroom Practices

Current ERS Scoring Requirements:

Regardless of Portfolio Points awarded, the following ERS Scores apply to All ratings

- To receive a **one-star rating**, a program must have at least a **3.0 average** ERS score for their *entire program*
- To receive a **three-star rating**, a program must have a **5.0 average** ERS score for their *entire program*

Reminder: If a program scores **less than a 3.0 average** on the ERS of **any classroom**, the program cannot be rated higher than a one-star.



Aligning Star Ratings to Classroom Practices



Currently

2 Star ERS Scoring Requirements

No Minimum ERS Program Average Required



New for 2026

2 Star ERS Scoring
Requirements

ERS Program Average = 4.0



Aligning Star Ratings to Classroom Practices

- Why a 4.0 ERS Minimum to Achieve a 2-Star Rating?

Clearer Definition of Quality

Logical Progression Between Star Levels

Encourages Continuous Improvement

Helps Parents Make Informed Choices



Quality Rated Refresh



[Criminal Records](#) [Service of Process](#) [Open Records](#)
[Find child care or call: 1-877-ALL-GA-KIDS](#)
For all other questions: 1-888-442-7735

[Home](#) [For Families](#) [For Providers](#) [For Educators](#) [About Us](#)



Quality Rated is Georgia’s system to determine, improve, and communicate the quality of child care programs. Similar to rating systems for restaurants and hotels, Quality Rated assigns one, two, or three stars to early education and school-age care programs that meet or exceed the minimum state requirements.

/ [Quality Rated](#) / [Quality Rated](#)



Quality Rated
Resources
Events
Contact Us

QUALITY RATED

By participating in Georgia’s voluntary Quality Rated program, providers commit to continuously improving the quality of care they offer to children. Families need an independent, trustworthy resource to help them find high-quality child care, preschool, and Pre-K programs, and that’s where Quality Rated comes in. It offers an online tool that helps families locate child care programs in their area that have been evaluated by credentialed early childhood educators. Quality Rated is a national program that provides a star rating. Families can have peace of mind knowing that any participating child care program is dedicated to providing children with an environment and experience that best supports their development.

Welcome To DECAL!
Hi, I'm CALi. How can I help you?



QR Webpage Key Features

 / [Quality Rated](#) / Quality Rated

Quality Rated
 Resources
Cohort Dates
ERS Resources
Inclusion
Peer Support Network
Program Manual
QR Portfolio
Technical Assistance
Pre-Observation Guides
Webinars
 Events
Contact Us
FAQS

Provider Enrollment

QR Payments

Find Child Care

Rating Process	+
Star Ratings (1-Star, 2-Star, 3-Star)	+
Participation	+
Benefits for Parents	+
Benefits for Providers	-
A key benefit of achieving a Quality Rated star rating is increased credibility and trust with families seeking high-quality child care. Programs also gain access to valuable resources, professional development opportunities, and potential financial incentives. Additionally, participation can lead to improved program practices, higher staff qualifications, and most importantly, better outcomes for children.	

Improvement and Support

For Families



This website will answer many of your questions about the importance of high quality child care, including how to find a one, two, or three star Quality Rated provider near you. Click on the button below to access [qualityrated.org](#).

For answers to questions about how to find Quality Rated child care, call toll-free 1-877-ALL-GA-KIDS.

[Learn more](#)

Documents **Webinars**

Georgia Child Care Quality Study Provider Info 2025
Annual Quality Rated Workforce Bonus - Slides
Annual Quality Rated Workforce Bonus - Webinar
Commitment to Quality Payments (C2Q) - Webinar
Commitment to Quality Payments (C2Q) - Slides
Quality Rated Rate Changes and Supports - Slides
Quality Rated Rate Changes and Supports - Webinar

Welcome To DECAL!
Hi, I'm CALi. How can I help you?

New Provider Resources

QUALITY RATED CHILD CARE

Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START

QUALITY RATED Benefits

Providers participating in Quality Rated have access to benefits, support, and financial incentives!

- Program Support & Tools**
 - GA Early Learning and Development Standards
 - ERS Assessment Tools
 - Tailored Facility Report for Continuous Quality Improvement
 - Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment
 - Family Engagement Self-Assessment
 - Marketing Tools, Authorized use of Logos
 - Access to Enhanced Features on Find Child Care Search Engine at QualityRated.org
- Support Services**
 - Practice-based Coaching
 - Targeted Technical Assistance
 - Peer Support Network
 - Dedicated Provider Support Help Desk
 - Specialized Planning and TA Support for Probationary providers
- Financial Benefits**
 - CAPS Scholarship Eligibility
 - Temporary Scholarship Award (TSA) for Provisional & Probationary Providers
 - Permanent Scholarship Award (PSA) for Rated Providers
 - Commitment to Quality Payments (C2Q) - Paid Quarterly
 - 2-Star Programs: 5% of billed CAPS payments
 - 3-Star Programs: 10% of billed CAPS payments
 - Quality Rated Workforce Bonus (QRWB) - Paid Annually
 - All Star Rated Providers - \$500 per eligible staff member
- Professional Development Opportunities**
 - Free Strengthening Families Training
 - Free Environment Rating Scale Training
 - Access to QR Endorsements
 - Access to Project L.I.T.T.L.E.

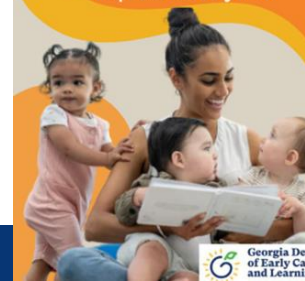
Contact Us
855-800-QRIS
QualityRated@dec.al.ga.gov
Visit Our Website
<https://qualityrated.dec.al.ga.gov>



A Georgia Child Care Provider's Guide



Georgia's Quality Rating & Improvement System



QUALITY RATED Payments

- ★ Provide Quality Care
- ★ Make a Difference
- ★ Be recognized for Your Impact

QR Workforce Bonus

- Annual \$500 bonus paid directly to staff in all Star Rated child care programs
- Eligibility requirements apply
- Staff applies annually during their program's designated Payment Application Month

Commitment to Quality (C2Q)

- Quarterly payments to 2- and 3-Star Rated child care programs
- Programs must participate in CAPS
- 2-Star Programs receive 5% of billed CAPS payments.
- 3-Star Programs receive 10% of billed CAPS payments.

For more information, contact Care Solutions:
Visit <https://dec.al.qrpayments.com> Email support@dec.al.qrpayments.com
Call 800-227-3410, ext. 613



Coming Soon: A Look Ahead



Integrity and Accountability Framework



You Worked Hard to Earn Your Star Rating

You Continue to Work Hard to Maintain Your Rating Standards



QR Advisory Committee



LISTENING TOUR

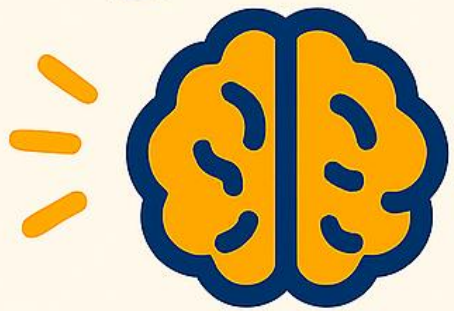
COMING SOON TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU



 **&A TIME!**



**Got questions?
We've got answers!**





Contact
Us

QR Provider Help Desk:
1-855-800-7747

QualityRated@dec.al.ga.gov