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Georgia Celebrates Inclusive Early Learning Week *Child Care Providers Encouraged to Help Celebrate February 12-18, 2023*

ATLANTA, Ga., - (February 3, 2023) – The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has designated February 12-18, 2023, as Inclusive Early Learning Week in Georgia. The purpose of this week is to increase awareness of and advocacy for inclusion, to celebrate successes in creating inclusive early learning environments, and to promote inclusive practices in all early learning environments in Georgia.

Inclusion helps all children develop a sense of belonging, nurture positive relationships, and reach their full potential. Children with and without disabilities benefit from being in a high-quality early learning program. As part of the celebration, Commissioner Jacobs, DECAL's official mascot CALi, and many special guests will visit early learning programs across the state to read books that celebrate inclusion and promote friendship. During Inclusive Early Learning Week, Georgia's early learning programs will receive an electronic Provider Celebration Kit to help providers engage all children, staff, and families in ways that are inclusive and diverse. The kit will be e-mailed to child care providers and will be posted at www.dec.al.ga.gov. Providers can also participate virtually by posting to social media using the hashtag #loveinclusion and entering DECAL's Better Together Social Media Contest.

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, 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.



www.dec.al.ga.gov

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