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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Georgia Celebrates Ninth Annual Inclusive Early Learning Week

Week Dedicated to Promoting Access and Inclusion in Early Childhood Education

ATLANTA, Ga., (January 7, 2025) - Georgia is proud to celebrate the ninth Inclusive Early Learning Week, February 10-14, 2025, a time dedicated to promoting access and inclusion in early childhood education. Presented by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), this week highlights the importance of ensuring that all young children regardless of ability, background, or circumstances have the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in supportive environments.

Since its inception, Inclusive Early Learning Week has served as a vital platform to raise awareness about the benefits of inclusive education. Throughout the week, early childhood educators, families, and advocates will engage in activities that highlight the power of inclusion. Events will emphasize best practices in early learning, provide resources for educators and families, and highlight success stories of children benefiting from inclusive learning environments.

As part of this year's celebration, in-person inclusion training sessions will be held in Albany on February 11 and in Atlanta and Savannah on February 13. These trainings will provide educators and early childhood professionals with valuable strategies for fostering inclusive learning environments that support all children.

"Inclusive early learning is essential to creating a more successful future for all students," said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. "By creating inclusive classrooms and ensuring every child has access to high-quality early education, we are setting them on a path to lifelong success."

Research shows that inclusive learning environments benefit all children by fostering empathy, social skills, and cognitive development. DECAL remains committed to advancing policies and programs that support children of all abilities and backgrounds, ensuring they receive the high-quality education they deserve.

Each day of the week has a special emphasis: Self-Care Sunday, Marvelous ME Monday, Tremendous TEAMwork Tuesday, WIND DOWN Wednesday, Totally Talented Thursday, and SUPER Friend Friday.

Parents, educators, and community members are encouraged to participate by sharing their inclusive learning experiences on social media using #LoveInclusion and #InclusiveEarlyLearningGA and by attending local events at schools and child care programs throughout the week.

For more information on Inclusive Early Learning Week and to download the 2025 Provider Celebration Kit, please visit <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/instructionalsupports/InclusiveEarlyLearningWeek.aspx>.

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 collaborates 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.

