



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

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Investing in Quality: DECAL Introduces Quality Rated Workforce Bonuses

Over \$17 million in Annual Bonuses Coming for Georgia's Early Child Care Workforce

ATLANTA, Ga., (April 1, 2025) – Georgia child care teachers and staff will soon receive strong recognition of their ongoing hard work and commitment: a \$500 bonus.

As part of its continuing dedication to improving quality early child care, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is launching a new initiative – Quality Rated Workforce Bonuses (QRWB) – to distribute an annual bonus to eligible staff members at Quality Rated Child Care providers. The initiative begins this month and is among the first of its kind in the nation. It reflects DECAL's commitment to investing in the 34,000 Georgia teachers and support staff who play a crucial role in fostering quality early education and care for young children.

“I am pleased that DECAL is able to invest \$17 million a year to award these bonuses to the hard-working professionals and staff at programs delivering high-quality care and education to Georgia's children,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “The annual \$500 QRWB payments are an important addition to the programs we already offer that support Georgia's child care workforce.”

The payments are a commitment by DECAL to reward and recognize full-time teachers and support staff who help their programs deliver care and education that exceed minimum standards and earn 1, 2 or 3 stars under Quality Rated, the state's quality rating and improvement system. The bonuses are available to all on-site teaching and support staff at Quality Rated child care programs, with each staff member eligible to receive one payment per year.

“The QRWB program will give child care providers who meet our highest standards some much-needed staff recruitment, retention, and recognition support,” explained Dr. Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships. “These payments serve as recognition for the hard work and dedication that early education professionals demonstrate daily in their efforts to help child care programs achieve and maintain their star ratings.”

The bonuses are funded through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant which promotes improving the quality of child care and after-school programs and provides child care assistance to support low-income working families with children ages birth through 13. DECAL is the lead agency for administering CCDF funds in Georgia.

For more information on the new Quality Rated Workforce Bonuses, please visit <https://decalqrpayers.com/quality-rated-workforce-bonus/>. You can also contact Care Solutions at support@decalqrpayers.com or 770-642-6722 ext. 613. For general Quality Rated information, please contact the QR Provider Help Desk at 1-855-800-7747 or email QualityRated@decals.gov.

About Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Bright from the Start: 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.decals.gov.