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Champions for Early Education Celebrate Georgia Pre-K Week 2018

ATLANTA – Georgia’s Pre-K Program is in its 26th year, and hundreds of state and local leaders are celebrating by reading to the state’s youngest learners from October 1-5.

The lottery-funded Georgia Pre-K program was launched in 1992 by Governor Zell Miller as a pilot program serving 750 four-year-olds. Since then, the program has laid a solid foundation for academic excellence and future success in the lives of approximately 1.6 million children.

Now in its eighth year, Georgia Pre-K Week is coordinated by Voices for Georgia’s Children, a policy and advocacy non-profit organization. The goal of Pre-K week is to emphasize the importance of quality early childhood education by providing opportunities for leaders to engage with Pre-K classrooms in local communities.

Once again, Georgia Power and Reach Out and Read Georgia are returning as a sponsors of Pre-K Week, which has been ardently supported by Governor Nathan Deal and First Lady Sandra Deal, state commissioners, state and local elected officials, and other special guests.

“The broad and diverse base of support from around our state is evidence that Georgia’s leaders care about and understand the long-term impact of quality early learning on each child,” said Dr. Erica Fener Sitkoff, Executive Director of Voices for Georgia’s Children. “Research consistently shows that children entering kindergarten from quality early learning settings are more prepared and ready to learn, which our leaders see first-hand during Pre-K Week.”

Countless state, business, and community leaders will visit Pre-K centers around the state this week to witness early learning in action. Nearly three out of every four state legislators, and nearly half of Georgia’s congressional delegation have participated in the event since it began in 2010.

“We are grateful to see Georgia’s state and local leaders celebrate Georgia’s Pre-K Program,” said Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), which administers Georgia’s Pre-K Program and licenses and monitors the state’s child care learning centers. “By participating in Pre-K Week activities, our leaders show parents and the public that they value quality early education and its impact on students, families and our state.”

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About Voices for Georgia's Children

Established in 2003, Voices for Georgia’s Children is a nonprofit child policy and advocacy organization that envisions a Georgia where all children will thrive because they are safe, healthy, educated, connected to family and community, and prepared to be productive and responsible citizens. Our mission is to promote equity, quality, and accessibility in systems created to serve children’s needs. We are dedicated to advancing policies and implementation actions that ensure the best possible outcomes for children. For more information, visit www.georgiavoices.org.

About Bright from the Start

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.decalf.ga.gov.

About Georgia Power

Georgia Power is the largest electric subsidiary of Southern Company (NYSE: SO), America’s premier energy company. Value, Reliability, Customer Service and Stewardship are the cornerstones of the company’s promise to 2.5 million customers in all but four of Georgia’s 159 counties. Committed to delivering clean, safe, reliable, and affordable energy at rates below the national average, Georgia Power maintains a diverse, innovative generation mix that includes nuclear, coal and natural gas, as well as renewables such as solar, hydroelectric and wind. Georgia Power focuses on delivering world-class service to its customers every day and the company is consistently recognized by J.D. Power and Associates as an industry leader in customer satisfaction. For more information, visit www.GeorgiaPower.com and connect with the company on Facebook ([Facebook.com/GeorgiaPower](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaPower)), Twitter ([Twitter.com/GeorgiaPower](https://twitter.com/GeorgiaPower)) and Instagram ([Instagram.com/ga_power](https://www.instagram.com/ga_power)).