



DECAL Stakeholder Network: Pre-K Directors and Owners Advisory Committee October 12, 2012



Bobby Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning



Agenda

- Welcome
- DECAL Updates and Priorities
- Georgia's Quality Rated and Improvement System (QRIS)
- Georgia's Pre-K Program Updates
- Wrap Up and Next Steps



DECAL Updates



Bobby Cagle, MSW, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning



Your Feedback



- **What is DECAL doing well?**
- **What is DECAL doing that could be improved?**
- **What is DECAL not doing that we should be doing?**



DECAL Priorities



- Health and Safety
- Quality Early Education
Leading to increased school readiness
- Communication





**QUALITY
RATED**

Georgia's systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early education and school-age care programs.



Quality Rated



WHAT? A tiered quality rating and improvement system (TQRIS) is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education (ECE) programs.

WHY? Findings from studies of child care quality conducted independent of DECAL by FPG Child Development Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill, indicate WHY Georgia needs a TQRIS:

- Over 3/4 of family day care homes in Georgia were scored as "low quality."
- Over 2/3 of infant/toddler care classrooms were scored as "low quality."
- Over 1/3 of preschool (non Georgia Pre-K) classrooms were scored as "low quality."



Quality Rated: Conceived through Collaboration



HOW? In September 2006, Georgia stakeholders began gathering to design a systemic approach to enhancing the quality of Georgia's early care and education system.

DECAL facilitated a discussion that included diverse voices to inform the development of a TQRIS in Georgia.

Stakeholders included:

ECE Providers

Advocacy Groups

Foundations

Head Start

School Systems

State Agencies

Resource & Referral Agencies

Provider Associations

Higher Education

Child Care Chains

Faith-based Providers

Parents



Quality Rated Eligibility



- All child care providers (family day care homes, group day care homes, child care learning centers, afterschool programs, and faith-based programs)
- All Pre-K providers (public school and private providers)
- Military child care programs licensed by the Department of Defense and Georgia's Pre-K Programs operated by local Boards of Education
- Eligibility Requirements:
 - Licensed for a minimum of 12 months
 - Compliant with licensing, Pre-K and Nutrition
 - Professional Development Registry



Quality Rated Program Standards

Staff Qualifications	Child Health, Nutrition, and Physical Activity	Family Partnerships	Intentional Learning Practices	Ratio and Group Size Requirements
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Quality Rated Supports

- **Technical Assistance**
 - On-site Coaching
 - Professional Development
 - Baseline environment rating scale assessment leads to targeted technical assistance (TA) plan
- **Incentive Packages**
 - \$500 Portfolio Submission
 - \$1,000 for Materials/Equipment for programs in TA
- **Bonus Packages**
 - Based on level awarded
 - Designed to support program in reaching next level
- **Tiered reimbursement for subsidized child care, July 2013**

Quality Rated Help Desk
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. 1-855-800-7747



Quality Rated Participation



As of October 5, 2012, **971** programs have applied to participate in Quality Rated.

- 397 programs with Georgia's Pre-K Program classes
- in 120 of Georgia's 159 counties

Serving **72,736** children

- 1,902 children with disabilities
- 3,540 English language learners
- 38 children of migrant workers
- 873 children living in foster homes
- 286 children who are homeless
- **11,183** children receiving child care subsidies (CAPS)
- 9,555 children receiving PeachCare



Georgia's Pre-K Updates



Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner
Georgia's Pre-K Program



By the Numbers...

2012-2013 school year



- Budgeted Slots 84,000
- Allocated Slots 83,754
- Current Enrollment 81,397
- Fill Rate 96.90%
- Number of Classes 3,807
- Waiting List 8,466



Pre-K Lead Teacher Retention



- Compared to last year, teacher retention rates have improved
- The lead teacher retention rate is 77.4% (up from 71.8% this time last year)
- Local school systems - lead teacher retention rate has increased 10 percentage points (65.5% to 75.7%)
- Private child care centers - lead teacher retention rate is up 2 percentage points (76.8% to 78.9%)



Pre-K Assistant Teacher Retention



- The overall assistant teacher retention rate is 72.5% (up from 70% this time last year)
- Local school systems - assistant teacher retention rate has increased 4 percentage points (71.5% to 75.8%)
- Private child care centers - assistant teacher retention rate is stagnant (68.9% to 69.8%)



Pre-K Longitudinal Study



- Study is officially sponsored by DECAL and participation is required as a condition of Pre-K Grant Agreement
- DECAL commissioned FPG Child Development Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill to conduct the study
- Participating programs and children are guaranteed confidentiality



Pre-K Longitudinal Study



- **Year One:**
 - Data collection is complete. This includes child assessments, classroom observations, and teacher/parent surveys
 - Results will be released in the late Fall with a full report expected before the New Year



Pre-K Longitudinal Study



- **Year Two:**
 - Year Two data collection will include a Kindergarten and Pre-K sample
 - Not all providers are selected. A random sample was selected
 - Researchers may request information, such as parent names and addresses, from some Project Directors
 - This is to contact families directly
 - Releasing information to FPG for use for research purposes is NOT a violation of either HIPAA or FERPA



Happy Anniversary Georgia's Pre-K!



- 2012-13 school year marks the 20th anniversary of Georgia's Pre-K Program
- Special events planned throughout the year
- Submit stories and photos to 20yrsofprek@dec.al.ga.gov



PK-12 Longitudinal Data System (LDS)



- Georgia Testing Identification Number (GTID) is assigned to all students who attend GA Pre-K's program
- Beginning this year, Pre-K assessment data for students served in WSO classrooms last year will be electronically transferred to the LDS
 - BOEs will have access to assessment data for the following domains:
 - Language Arts
 - Math
 - Personal/Social
 - Fine Motor indicators in Physical/Health domain



Governor's Proposal



- **Add 10 days to Pre-K year to bring to a full 180 day school year**
- **Must be approved by legislatures as a part of the new budget**



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Contact Information



For more information,
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