



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and Quality Rated
Launch Applications for 2017- 2018 Quality Rated Advisory Committee**

***Committee Will Guide and Foster Growth for
Georgia's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)***

ATLANTA (September 16, 2016) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) released applications today for its 2017-2018 Quality Rated Advisory Committee. The Quality Rated Advisory Committee will be charged with creating meaningful reforms to Quality Rated that will foster sustainable growth to achieve 100% participation in the program.

Currently, 1,158 child care programs in Georgia are Quality Rated. These child care providers in Georgia have been rated and committed to going above and beyond state health and safety requirements to provide a high-quality experience to children and their families. Quality Rated is a program of DECAL.

All Quality Rated programs can be found on www.QualityRated.org in an easy-to-use, free, online database designed for Georgia parents. All child care providers that participate in Quality Rated – whether they have one, two or three stars – have gone above and beyond state health and safety requirements.

“We are excited to open applications for the Quality Rated Advisory Committee,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “We are looking for a cross-section of early care and education professionals whose support will be critical in helping Georgia achieve its goal of 100% of eligible child care providers participating in Quality Rated.”

Quality Rated child care providers who have received their quality rating within the past year; child care providers that are participating (in the process of becoming Quality Rated); and early childhood education stakeholders are eligible and encouraged to apply to serve on the Quality Rated Advisory Committee.

Applications for the 18-month term on the committee are due on Tuesday, October 4, 2016. Applicants selected to serve will be notified by October 28, 2018.

For more information about the Quality Rated Advisory Committee and to access the application, visit <http://tinyurl.com/hh5lqxl>.

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 voluntary quality enhancement programs.

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.decal.ga.gov.