



**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Bobby Cagle, MSW**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DECAL Offering Provider Application Packages for  
Georgia's Pre-K Program**

*Deadline for Submitting Applications is 5:00 PM EDT on April 23, 2014*

**ATLANTA, Ga., (March 31, 2014)** –Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has posted application packages for new and returning providers of Georgia's Pre-K Program for the 2014-2015 school year to its website at [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov). Existing providers of currently funded classes can request expansion classes while new providers can receive important information about the application review, award process, and grant funding. The deadline for all applications is **Wednesday, April 23, 2014**, at 5:00 PM EDT. Currently, there are 1,819 Pre-K sites statewide.

Georgia's Pre-K Program is a lottery-funded educational program for age-eligible four-year-old children in Georgia. Georgia's Pre-K Program normally operates on the regular school system calendar for the length of a typical school day. This year, approximately 84,000 four-year-olds are being served through Georgia's Pre-K Program in over 3,800 funded classes.

The purpose of the program is to prepare children for success in Kindergarten and later school years. Programs are offered at local public schools or through private providers of preschool services.

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“Georgia’s Pre-K Program significantly improves school readiness skills in language, literacy, math, and general knowledge,” said DECAL Commissioner Bobby Cagle, pointing to a recent study by the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. “By acquiring these skills early on, our students stand a greater chance of reading on grade level, which better positions them for future academic excellence.”

For more information about becoming a provider in Georgia’s Pre-K Program, please call 404-656-5957 or 1-888-4GA-PREK and ask for the Pre-K Consultant of the Day. You may also e-mail questions to [prek@decals.ga.gov](mailto:prek@decals.ga.gov).

### **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.decals.ga.gov](http://www.decals.ga.gov).