



**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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**DECAL and Voices for Georgia's Children host
Statewide Celebration of Early Learning**

Georgia Pre-K Week is October 7-11, 2019

*First Lady Marty Kemp and Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs will
Kick Off the Week at Appletree Prep in Bogart, GA*

ATLANTA, Ga., (October 2, 2019) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and Voices for Georgia's Children will join leaders from around the state to show support for early childhood education and visit Pre-Kindergarten classrooms as part of this year's Georgia Pre-K Week, October 7-11, 2019. Georgia's First Lady Marty Kemp and Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs will kick off the week on **Monday, October 7, 2019**, at 9:00 AM with a visit to the Georgia's Pre-K Program classes at Appletree Prep, located at 2881 Monroe Highway in Bogart, Georgia (Oconee County).

Now in its ninth year, Pre-K Week is a celebration of Georgia's nationally recognized Pre-K program and other quality early learning centers. During the week, hundreds of state, business, and community leaders visit Pre-K centers to see early learning in action.

DECAL and Voices will join business and state leaders in reading children's books to Pre-K classes and experience first-hand the joy and enthusiasm of young learners.

“Quality early learning gives Georgia’s youngest learners the foundational skills they build upon throughout their education,” said Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “Research shows children who attend quality early learning programs are more likely to graduate from high school and enroll in college, making quality early learning essential to our children, families, and state workforce.”

“The support of public and private organizations sends a powerful statement to the community about the value of quality early learning,” said Dr. Erica Fener Sitkoff, Executive Director of Voices for Georgia’s Children. “We are grateful to have their support in raising awareness of Georgia’s Pre-K Program.”

Pre-K Week is organized each year by Voices for Georgia’s Children, a policy and advocacy non-profit organization, with support from DECAL. For more information on how your program can get involved, visit www.gaprekweek.com or listen to this special [podcast](#) featuring Commissioner Jacobs and Dr. Sitkoff.

About Voices for Georgia’s Children

Voices for Georgia’s Children (www.georgiavoices.org) is a non-profit child policy and advocacy organization that envisions a Georgia where all children thrive because they are safe, healthy, educated, connected to family and community, and prepared to be productive and responsible citizens. Voices’ mission is to promote equity, quality, and accessibility in systems created to serve children’s needs, and is dedicated to advancing policies and implementation actions that ensure the best possible outcomes for children.

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.dec.al.ga.gov.