



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Lady Sandra Deal to visit Summer Food Service Sites

Free Meals Available Throughout the State for Eligible Children Age 18 and Under

Atlanta, Ga., (July 20, 2014) – Georgia’s First Lady Sandra Deal is helping draw attention to a program offering free meals to eligible children age 18 and under (and some eligible adults) by visiting sites participating in the annual Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The SFSP is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered in Georgia by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL).

The SFSP provides free meals in low-income areas during the summer months when students are out of school. Over 60% of Georgia’s school-aged children are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Through the SFSP, these children receive free meals during the summer when they may not have daily access to well-balanced meals.

“Our children have a difficult time learning and playing over the summer when they’re hungry,” said Mrs. Deal. “The Summer Food Service Program is an invaluable resource for many Georgia families, and we want everyone to know about it and benefit from it.”

On Monday, July 21, 2014, Mrs. Deal will visit the Walton Crossing Adventure Center in Austell for their morning snack and the Elizabeth Porter Recreation Center in Marietta for lunch. The following day, Tuesday, July 22, she will visit the Kiwanis Residential Day Camp operated by the Boys & Girls Club in Danielsville. On Tuesday, July 29, 2014, Mrs. Deal will visit the Waller Recreation Center in Roswell for breakfast and the Pleasant Hill Community Center in Roswell for lunch. On Wednesday, July 30, she will visit the Boys and Girls Club in Toccoa for breakfast.

According to Falita Flowers, DECAL’s Nutrition Services Director, “When school is out, too many families across the state worry about how their children will receive nutritious meals on a daily basis. The SFSP helps fill that gap and contributes to the overall health and well-being of children.”

Parents and children can find sites in their area where meals will be served by visiting DECAL’s website at <http://dec.al.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx>. Use the search function (zip code or county) to find a list of all local facilities open to the public, sponsors, addresses, maps, contact names, and phone numbers. Additionally, sites can be located by calling 1-855-550-SFSP (7377) or by texting “FOODGA” to 877-877. (Standard messaging and data rates apply.)

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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 the voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start 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.