



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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**Nathan Deal**  
*Governor*

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
*Commissioner*

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## **Statement on Governor Deal's State of the State Address**

**Attribute to Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner**  
**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

“On behalf of our state’s youngest learners, we thank Governor Deal for his continued commitment to high quality early care and education as expressed in his 2016 State of the State address. On behalf of the early education professionals who daily administer Georgia’s Pre-K Program in thousands of Pre-K classes around the state, we thank the Governor for his proposed budget which adds an additional \$34.1 million to implement a new compensation model for Pre-K to help retain lead teachers, increase assistant teacher salaries, and maintain classroom quality. Georgia’s Pre-K Program is an exemplary early childhood education program for four year olds that significantly impacts school readiness skills in language, literacy and math. The program’s success can be attributed directly to the outstanding Pre-K teachers and assistants who implement this program daily. Governor Deal’s support as expressed in today’s address will help ensure that Georgia remains a national leader in quality early childhood education.”

## **About DECAL**

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.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).