









Quality early care and learning are essential to the growth and development of Georgia’s youngest learners. Multiple studies have shown how quality early care and learning impact outcomes for young children in their early years and well beyond.

## What is Quality?<sup>1</sup>

-  Have low child-teacher ratios
-  Implement individualized instruction
-  Employ qualified and well-trained teachers
-  Ensure a clean and safe environment
-  Engage and support families
-  Provides supports for dual-language learners
-  Promote proper physical, social, and emotional development
-  Support academic growth particularly in language and literacy






## Quality Initiatives in Georgia

### Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards<sup>2</sup>

The Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) are a set of high-quality, research-based, appropriate, and attainable standards that are flexible enough to support individual rates of development, approaches to learning, and cultural context for children from birth to age five. The GELDS promote quality learning experiences for children and address the question, **“What should children from birth to age five know and be able to do?”** The GELDS are aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for K-12, as well as the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and the Work Sampling System.

The GELDS are a continuum of skills, behaviors, and concepts that children develop throughout this time of life, divided by age group.

### The GELDS have FIVE domains of learning:

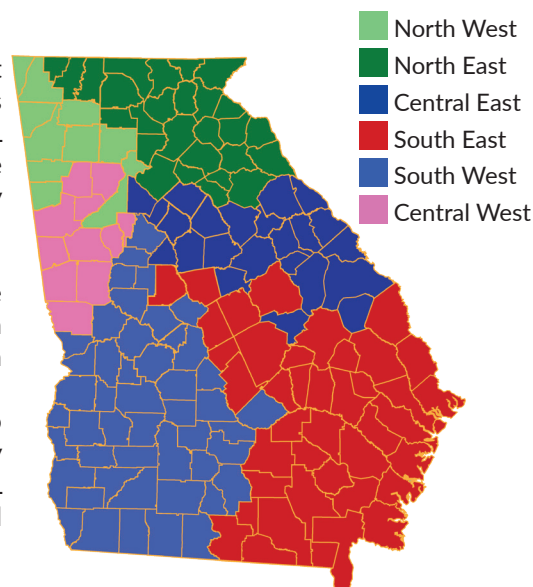
-  Physical Development and Motor Skills
-  Social and Emotional Development
-  Approaches to Play and Learning
-  Communication, Language, and Literacy
-  Cognitive Development and General Knowledge

*Each domain is organized into strands, standards, and age-appropriate indicators.*

### Early Education Community Partnerships Team<sup>3</sup>

DECAL is continuing its investment in community outreach and engagement through the Early Education Community Partnerships (EECP) Team. This team is composed of six Community Coordinators assigned to each DECAL administrative region of the state. These Community Coordinators share information about DECAL resources and collaborate with community organizations to improve learning outcomes for young children.

The EECP Team also engages with local stakeholders to coordinate the delivery of available services for young children and their families, with priority given to efforts that expand access to high-quality care through Georgia’s Quality Rated Child Care system. Specific efforts led by regional Community Coordinators include working with community stakeholders to align systems for children ages birth to 8, fostering public awareness of early education services, serving as a local resource and referral for all DECAL programs and services, and convening regional birth-to-eight teams and child care engagement networks.



## What is Quality Rated?<sup>4</sup>

Quality Rated is a voluntary tiered rating and improvement system for early and school-age care programs administered by DECAL. Quality Rated is meant to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality of a child care program.



To become Quality Rated, programs must score well on portfolios with self-reported information and classroom observations conducted by trained assessors. Star rated programs receive packages with training, materials, and equipment.



Quality Rated is a **three-star rating system** that awards programs a star rating based on standards

## Benefits of Quality Rated

### For Parents and Families:



[QualityRated.org](http://QualityRated.org) is a trustworthy resource that helps families find high-quality child care and pre-k programs.



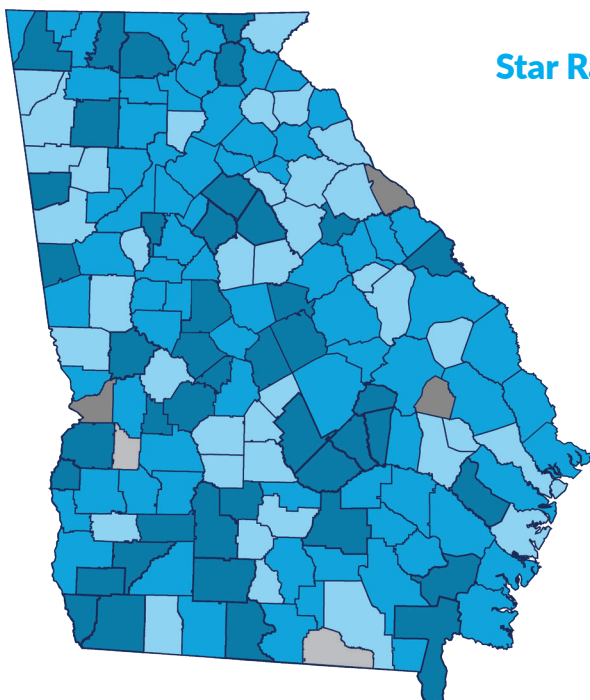
Parents can use the **FREE, online search tool** to access information about specific programming, including safety and inspection reports, weekly rates, and ages served.

### For Georgia:

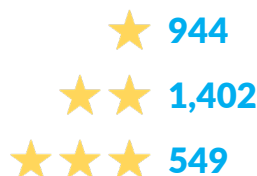
Regardless of their rating, all programs that participate are committed to improving the quality of their program by going above and beyond Georgia's licensing standards. At a community and state level, Quality Rated creates a shared understanding of quality learning and a commitment to achieving it.

## Where are Georgia's Quality Rated Programs?

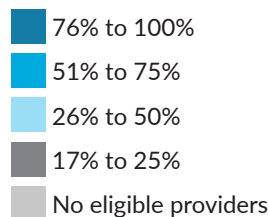
Of the **4,524** state eligible child care programs, more than **2,895** are Quality Rated.<sup>5</sup>



### Star Rating Statewide Count<sup>6</sup>



### Percentage of Quality Rated Centers, by County





## References for Quality Early Learning in Georgia

Suggested citation: Voices for Georgia's Children. (2023). Fact Sheet: Quality Early Learning in Georgia. Voices for Georgia's Children. <https://adobe.ly/3QXIj3C>.

- 1 Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students. "Quality Rated Child Care." Accessed August 30, 2023. <https://geears.org/quality-rated-child-care>.
- 2 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. "Welcome to The Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS)." Accessed December 14, 2020. <http://gelds.dec.al.ga.gov/>.
- 3 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, professional communication, June 22, 2022.
- 4 Ibid
- 5 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, professional communication, August 30, 2023.
- 6 Ibid