



January 2017

## Quality Rated Advisory Committee Holds Its First Meeting



Members of the 2017-18 Quality Rated Advisory Committee (QRAC) attended their first meeting on Tuesday, January 17 at Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) in Atlanta.

The QRAC received updates about Quality Rated initiatives and provided direct feedback to DECAL about its efforts with the Quality Rated program. Members will serve an 18-month term on the committee and work together to help foster ideas to increase Quality Rated awareness and participation.

Members of the QRAC include: Trudy Bradfield, Regional Manager of Childcare Network; Christopher Bryant, Program Director of YMCA of Metropolitan Columbus; Ellyn Cochran, Senior Director of Early Learning and Development of United Way of Greater Atlanta; Pamela R. Carter, Director/Owner of Tickle Me Pink Daycare & Learning Center; DiAnne Coggins, Family Child Care Provider in College Park; Diane Tant Daniel, Owner of Discovery Point #28; Ashley Darcy, Assistant Director of Montessori Teacher Education Institute of Atlanta; Sandi Douget, Owner of GCCA Kids R Kids Mableton; Dineen Frankel, Director of Kids R Kids #36;

## Quick Links

[Quality Rated Website](#)

[Quality Rated Program Manual](#)

[DECAL KOALA](#)

[Environment Rating Scales Institute](#)

[Quality Rated Facebook](#)

[Quality Rated Twitter](#)

[Quality Rated Instagram](#)

## From the Review Desk

*In reviewing portfolios we frequently see responses that reflect either misinformation, misconceptions or "myths" regarding the intent of specific standards. To support your quality improvement efforts and to help your program achieve the highest star - rating possible, we will, from time to time, seek to dispel myths that often result in earning less points, and therefore, a lower overall portfolio score.*

*One indicator where we frequently see lower points earned is Part B, of Standard 1. The intent of Standard 1 is to measure to what extent your program recruits and retains*

Ronda Francis Gedward, Owner of Educationally Complete; Allison Gill, Director of The Suzuki School; Carla Hall, Center Supervisor of SWGACAC, Inc.; Michelle Hill, President of KIDazzle Child Care Inc.; Lisa Kingry, Director of The FAMILY Tree, Phoebe Putney Health System; Barbra Rawlings, Washington County NB & PW Club, Inc. Head Start; Elisa Shepherd, Director of KinderCare; Audrey Singleton, Owner of Richmond Hill Montessori Preschool; LaToya N. Smith, Director of Kuddles & Huggs Learning Academy; Katie Stanley, Department Director of The Children's House; and Linda Smith, Early Childhood Education Instructor at Central Georgia Technical College.

The next QRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th, 2017.

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## Applications Will Soon Open for Quality Rated Ambassadors

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### PEER SUPPORT NETWORK



The **Quality Rated Peer Support Network (PSN)** is looking for Ambassadors! The Quality Rated ambassador fills an important role for the PSN. They represent the Quality Rated program while interfacing with the community at PSN meetings.

The Quality Rated Peer Support Network was created by child care providers to share ideas, success stories, and lessons learned during the Quality Rated experience. The Peer Support Network is open to all Quality Rated programs as well as those who are in the process of earning or increasing their Quality Rated star rating. Meetings of the PSN are facilitated by a Quality Rated Ambassador, a representative from a 2-star or 3-star Quality Rated program.

Quality Rated Ambassadors are selected by DECAL based on their proven commitment and passion for improving the lives of Georgia's Children and Families. We are looking for ambassadors who will meet the following requirements.

#### Qualifications:

- Administrator of 2 or 3-star program
- History of compliance w/ CCS/Pre-K/CAPS
- 5+ years of experience as an administration
- Experience with leading a program through the Quality Rated process
- State approved trainer OR commitment to enroll in PLC facilitator training

#### Commitment:

*highly qualified staff. Parts B - 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 specifically address instructional staff. This standard requires that all instructional staff are registered in the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS), are in ACTIVE status and have a designated career level in order to be considered in calculating scores. Remember, what appears in your program portfolio for instructional staff is imported (pulled) directly from the GaPDS.*

#### Myth - Standard 1, Part B

My most important responsibility as the program director/family child care provider is to ensure that all my staff are entered/registered in the GaPDS and appear in my portfolio.

#### In Truth

The responsibility does not stop there. Before you hit submit, it is important that you take time to ensure that each staff member is not only included, but is properly identified by their role.

The portfolios of child care learning centers and family day care homes (those with staff), should identify all instructional staff as either a Lead or an Assistant Teacher.

Under the "Staff Qualifications" section, make sure that any teaching/classroom staff whose title (their position) appears as "Family Child Care Provider" go back into the GaPDS and change their role to a lead or assistant teacher as appropriate.

As you know, veteran, former family day care home providers, with their considerable experience, are a great resource for other licensed programs seeking skilled professionals. However, when they become employees, they must change/update their role in the system or they will not be included in the scoring for Part B.

Thus, many times in Part B, a lower score is the direct result of how staff are identified in the

- Facilitate quarterly PSN meetings for a period of one year
- Communicate with participants in-between meetings via email, social media, etc.
- Attended quarterly meetings of the PSN planning committee
- Participate in quarterly conference call to prepare for PSN meeting
- Represent the Peer Support Network at regional conferences; present information about the PSN alongside DECAL staff

Applications for Quality Rated Ambassadors will be emailed in early February. For more information, email [PSN@decals.gov](mailto:PSN@decals.gov)

## Beyond School Hours National Education Conference



If you're a school-aged program, you may be interested in registering for the 2017 Beyond School Hours National Education Conference, which is scheduled for February 22-25, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

The national conference will provide take home skills and tools that will help improve learning outcomes for young people. The conference will include:

- Hands-on workshops and pre-conferences led by national experts
- Motivating keynote presentations and panel discussions
- Powerful networking opportunities and celebrations
- Fascinating educational excursions
- Premium exhibits unveiling the latest products and solutions

Georgia attendees can save 10% by using the discount code "GYD2017" at registration. To learn more about this event, visit <http://www.foundationsinc.org/beyond-school-hours-xx>

## Sign Up for the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network's Newsletters



GaPDS. To ensure proper consideration and credit, take a moment to carefully review this standard prior to portfolio submission.

**Please feel free to call or email the Help Desk should you need assistance at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decals.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decals.gov). Questions about updating GaPDS Profiles, call 888-924-2737 or email at [gapds@decals.gov](mailto:gapds@decals.gov).**

## Let's Get More Quality Rated Programs in Georgia!

Do you know any Georgia child care providers thinking about becoming Quality Rated? This would be the perfect time!

For a limited time, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is offering incentives to child care programs that submit an initial application to become Quality Rated.

All programs have to do is visit [qualityrated.decals.gov](http://qualityrated.decals.gov), create an account and complete a brief application with demographic information about their program.

Once they have completed this information, they must submit their application for approval by checking the box at the bottom of the application.

Programs that complete and submit their application to become Quality Rated will receive Family Engagement Materials from GELDS (Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards).

We hope to see many more child care providers get started on the path to becoming Quality Rated!

Subscribe to the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network's (GSAN) mailing list and newsletters.


GSAN is a public-private collaborative whose mission is to advance, connect, and support quality afterschool programs to promote the success of children and youth throughout Georgia.

They provide effective resources for afterschool, before school, and summer learning programs in Georgia.

Click [here](#) to subscribe to GSAN's newsletter, which is located at the bottom right of their homepage.

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## Congratulations to the Newest Quality Rated Child Care Programs

Congratulations to the newest  QUALITY RATED™ child care programs!

- ★ Wesley Chapel Child Care, Decatur
- ★★ Growing Minds Christian Academy, Fayetteville
- ★★★ New Beginnings Child Development Center II, Atlanta
- ★★★ Little Angels Child Development Center Inc., Columbus
- ★★★ Sweet Peas Day Care, Albany
- ★★★★ Candi C. Geter, Newnan
- ★ Grannies' Playcare Center, Kingsland
- ★ Treasure's Academy, Rock Spring
- ★ Maria E. Okwara, Norcross
- ★ All My KIDZ Academy LLC, Ellenwood
- ★★ Doreen's Nursery School Inc., Savannah
- ★★ Jeannette A. Anderson, Townsend
- ★★★ Discovery Montessori School, Waycross
- ★ Early Start Learning Center, Decatur
- ★★★★ Julia Bardsley, Fort Gordon
- ★ Lacora Y. Thomas, Savannah
- ★★ Cassandra E. Harris, Savannah
- ★★ Noah's Ark Child Care & Learning Center, Thomaston
- ★★★ Heaven's Rainbow Learning Center LLC, Athens
- ★ Krayons Academy 2, Kingsland
- ★★★★ Shaleah J. Zambino, Lilburn



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