



January 25, 2021

Amy Jacobs
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE
754 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Commissioner Jacobs:

I hope this message finds you and your staff well as you work to meet the needs of the youngest Georgians during an unprecedented time. On behalf of the 95,000 members of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators, I write to request that the Department of Early Care & Learning provide Georgia's pre-kindergarten teachers a one-time \$1,000 supplement to match the supplement recently announced for their K-12 colleagues. Like their peers in K-12, pre-kindergarten teachers have shown dedication and ingenuity in supporting the state's youngest students in this stressful time. Serving these students and their families has presented unique challenges during the pandemic. In a recent PAGE survey, nearly 89 percent of pre-kindergarten teachers reported they are providing more communication and support to parents this year. Many also cover classes for their colleagues who are absent due to the virus, and they have taken on new tasks including serving meals and cleaning schools.

PAGE appreciates the support DECAL has shown for teachers as well as children and families during this challenging time. We know the DECAL leadership team and staff are focused on providing strategic support to educators and value these efforts. Please let us know if PAGE can provide information or support.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Ciccarelli", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Margaret Ciccarelli
Director of Legislative Services

cc: Representative Terry England, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Senator Blake Tillery, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
Representative Todd Jones, Chairman, House Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Senator Lindsey Tippins, Chairman, Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Ian Caraway, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor