



Scholars of the Year 2021 Application Packet

for the 20th Anniversary of DECAL Scholars



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START



Overview & Qualifications

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of DECAL Scholars¹, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is seeking applications for the 2021 Scholars of the Year. DECAL will select one winner from a four-year college or university and one winner from a technical college to serve as ambassadors of the DECAL Scholars program for the year.

The winners will receive:

- \$1,500 for their personal use
- \$500 for a classroom makeover
- A letter signed by DECAL Commissioner Amy Jacobs and Governor Brian Kemp
- A virtual classroom appearance by Coy Bowles of the Zac Brown Band
- A one-year membership or renewal to two early childhood organizations, such as NAEYC, GAEYC, SECA, PFCCA, Zero to Three, and DEC

To be considered for this honor, an applicant must meet the following qualifications:

- Currently participating in the DECAL Scholars SCHOLARSHIPS program²
- Has attended a four-year college/university for a total of at least two years OR a technical college for a total of at least one year
- Has a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Currently working as a full-time lead or assistant teacher in a licensed Child Care Learning Center, licensed Family Child Care Learning Home, exempt Head Start or Department of Defense program, or Georgia's Pre-K program and has been employed for at least 12 months

Timeline

- Application opens Wednesday, May 19, 2021
- Application deadline is Friday, June 18, 2021
- Scholars of the Year announced on Friday, July 16, 2021

Application Instructions & Submission

To submit your application, save a copy of this fillable application form as a new file, fill in the boxes with your responses to each question, and email your completed form along with a current lesson plan/work sample to the email address provided below.

- Handwritten applications will not be reviewed.

¹ More about DECAL Scholars: <https://www.decalscholars.com/>

² More about the SCHOLARSHIPS program: https://www.decalscholars.com/content/sch_landing.cfm



- Applications must be accompanied by a current lesson plan showcasing one school week/work sample (e.g., an infant/toddler professional’s work sample may include non-identifiable photos of children engaged in an activity).
- Send a copy of this completed application form and your current lesson plan/work sample to decalscholars@dec.al.ga.gov.
- Be sure to submit your application by the deadline of **June 18, 2021 at 5:00PM ET**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

For questions about Scholars of the Year applications, contact Carrie Ashbee at Carrie.Ashbee@dec.al.ga.gov or (404) 548-5023.

DECAL Scholars of the Year 2021 Application Packet

Applicant Information

First Name	
Last Name	
Mailing Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone Number	
E-mail Address	
Please indicate if you are a Lead Teacher or Assistant Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Teacher
Primary Classroom/Age Group Taught (Infant, Toddler, Preschool, Pre-K, Georgia’s Pre-K, Mixed-Age)	
Start Date for Current Position	



Education

I currently attend a (please select one):

Technical College

4-year
College/University

College/University Name

Advisor Name

Advisor Phone Number

Advisor E-mail Address

Start Date for Current School

Current GPA (minimum 3.0 required)

If you previously attended another college/university, please list it here with the start and end dates

Are you currently participating in the SCHOLARSHIPS program?

Employment

Employer Name*

Employer Street Address

City, State, Zip

Director/Supervisor Name

Director/Supervisor Phone Number

Director/Supervisor E-mail Address

* Licensed Child Care Learning Center, Licensed Family Child Care Learning Home, Exempt Head Start, Exempt Department of Defense Program, or Georgia's Pre-K Program.



Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as your career path (maximum 250 words)?

How has the SCHOLARSHIPS Program assisted you with your educational goals (maximum 250 words)?

What are your ultimate career/professional development goals (maximum 250 words)?



References

Reference #1: Employer

Employer Name

Employer Role

Employer Phone Number

Employer E-mail Address

Reference # 2: Colleague from Current Place of Employment

Colleague Name

Colleague Role

Colleague Phone Number

Colleague E-mail Address

Reference # 3: Parent/Family from Current Classroom

Parent/Family Name

Parent/Family Phone Number

Parent/Family E-mail Address