Georgia’s early care and education (ECE) workforce is 67,500 strong, serving 337,000 of Georgia’s children.

Policies impacting the ECE field are decided by elected officials at all levels of government—from local school boards to the halls of Congress. The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated many of the problems already facing the ECE industry. Families have long struggled to access affordable high-quality options, teachers have been underpaid and undervalued, and programs have faced slim margins and precarious financial situations.

The ECE industry is under great stress. Now, more than ever, your vote matters.

Here are some ways you can support your staff and families in voting:

1. **Get the Word Out**
   - Make sure your employees and parents know about the upcoming election and encourage them to vote. Give out nonpartisan voter information (like the information found on the back of this mailer!) by utilizing your existing communication channels, such as your newsletter or social media accounts. Send home a note in backpacks or hang up a flyer. Consider reminding parents about upcoming deadlines during drop-off/pick-up or prescheduled parent-teacher conferences. Give staff time to request absentee ballots or register to vote during staff meetings.

2. **Make It Possible**
   - Consider doing the following to help get people to the polls:
     - Extend your hours so parents can vote before or after work
     - Encourage staff to make a plan to vote, whether absentee or on election day
     - Give staff time off to vote, planning ahead for coverage to maintain staff-child ratios

3. **Keep Young Children in Mind When You Vote**
   - Your voice is their future. Check out GEEARS’ 2020 Voter Guide to learn more about the issues impacting Georgia’s youngest learners and their families and find questions you can ask candidates.

For GEEARS’ 2020 Voter Guide and more resources, visit geears.org/vote.

Please be sure to follow federal and state tax and campaign laws. Nonprofits can participate in GOTV activities like the ones listed here, as long as they are nonpartisan and have no evidence of bias for a particular candidate or political party.
Find all the resources you need in the 2020 Georgia Voter Guide on Early Care and Learning at www.geears.org/vote

OCTOBER 5
Voter Registration Deadline

OCTOBER 12–30
Early Voting

NOVEMBER 3
Election Day

Please consider voting by absentee ballot during this unusual election season!

You do not need to provide a reason to vote by absentee ballot in Georgia.

Request your ballot as soon as possible, as it may take a while to process. You can request an absentee ballot by visiting ballotrequest.sos.ga.gov.

Once you receive your ballot, follow the provided instructions to complete it and then hand-deliver to your county election office or return it by mail. Absentee ballots must arrive at your county election office by election day.

Our state’s youngest children are depending on all of us to vote on November 3rd.