

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City Schools of Decatur Early Childhood Learning Lab Workforce & Family Support project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Decatur City Schools located at 125 Electric Avenue, Decatur, GA 20030.

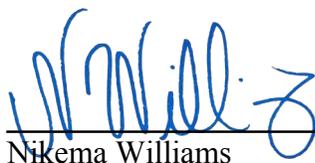
The funding would be used for to support equipment and workforce training infrastructure with the Early Childhood Learning Lab. City Schools of Decatur (CSD) is constructing a new Early Childhood Learning Lab with an expected opening in 2027. Requested funds will establish an Early Childhood Workforce Development Lab serving current early learning teachers and Decatur High School students enrolled in the Early Childhood Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) pathway. Funding will support the purchase of instructional equipment, classroom furnishings, observation technology, simulation tools, literacy materials aligned to the Science of Reading, and lab supplies that replicate high-quality early learning environments. This investment strengthens Georgia's early childhood educator pipeline by providing hands-on, credential-aligned training and practicum experiences. The project expands workforce readiness, supports teacher development, and increases access to high-quality early learning while addressing regional educator workforce needs.

This is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because increasing access to high-quality early learning opportunities, nurturing the next generation of aspiring early childcare professionals and educators, and supporting working Georgia families are worthy investments that produce positive community impact and economic benefit at individual and institutional levels.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress