



# Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

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1-833-4GA-CAPS (1-833-442-2277)

**Brian P. Kemp**  
Governor

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
Commissioner

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July 1, 2021

Dear CAPS Family Member,

I am writing to share some important changes to the CAPS program that might affect you. Georgia has a system called Quality Rated that evaluates the level of quality a child care program provides. Like systems that rate restaurants and hotels, Quality Rated child care programs receive 1, 2, or 3 stars.

Because we want your child(ren) to receive the highest quality child care possible, **all CAPS providers** must be star rated (either 1, 2, or 3 stars) **by December 31, 2021**, to continue to receive CAPS funding. To meet the requirements of the **CAPS 2021 Quality Rated** deadline, the following policy changes go into effect **July 1, 2021**.

1. Added definitions for **CAPS/Quality Rated Probationary Status, CAPS/Quality Rated Provisional Status, Quality Rated Cohort Group, and Quality Rated Provider**. These policy changes can be [viewed in CAPS Definitions and Acronyms \(CAPS/00-2\)](#).
2. Added the CAPS/Quality Rated deadline date and milestones. The policy can be [viewed in CAPS Participating Providers Policy \(CAPS/00-11\), section 11.4.2](#).

### How do the policy changes affect you?

- Beginning **August 1, 2021**, if you want to change child care providers, you will have to select either a Quality Rated provider or one that is taking steps to become Quality Rated. CAPS providers that aren't in the Quality Rated process will no longer be able to accept new families with CAPS scholarships.
- Beginning **January 1, 2022**, at your CAPS redetermination, if your child(ren) are cared for by a provider who is **NOT** Quality Rated or taking steps to become Quality Rated, you will have to choose a **new provider**. I recommend that you ask your child care provider if they are Quality Rated, and if not, encourage them to seriously consider participating in this beneficial program.

If you have questions about these upcoming changes, contact us at 1-833-4GA-CAPS (1-833-442-2277).

Thank you for continuing to partner with us in supporting your child's early education needs.

Sincerely,

Elisabetta Kasfir  
Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs