



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334
1-833-4GA-CAPS (1-833-442-2277)

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

May 7, 2021

Dear Child Care Provider,

As part of the federal **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)**, DECAL has received funds to help mitigate the negative financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Georgia's child care industry and to help eligible Georgia families (also negatively impacted by the pandemic) pay for child care. DECAL will use this historic investment in early learning to support families and child care programs through an initiative called **ACCESS—Awarding Child Care Education Scholarship Supplements**. Funding for ACCESS is time limited and provided as relief from the federal government.

ACCESS is intended to temporarily alleviate families in the CAPS program of the financial burden of child care. Through ACCESS, **beginning May 17, 2021 through service period ending October 2, 2022** the CAPS program will pay your full published rate for the type of care provided, including the CAPS family fee. With this initiative, CAPS families will not pay you any tuition related fees or co-payments for child care services. Eliminating the family fee will significantly enhance families' access to quality child care during this time when a family's ability to pay child care co-payments may be impacted.

Will CAPS update the child's active scholarship to reflect the waiver of the family fee?

No, the family fee will continue to be reflected on the active scholarships as required in [CAPS Policy 9.3.1](#) and [CAPS Policy 9.3.2](#). When you request payment, CAPS will pay your full published rate for the type of care provided to the child.

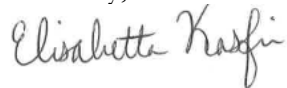
In recent weeks your published rates have been confirmed through the STABLE 3 application you submitted, or are in the process of being confirmed by one of our CAPS staff reaching out directly to your program. CAPS will use these rates when calculating your payment until October 2, 2022, and under this new emergency policy, you will not be permitted to charge families enrolled in CAPS any tuition related fees or co-payments for child care services from May 17, 2021 until October 2, 2022. CAPS will not process any provider rate changes during this period.

A complete list of policy waivers addressed in the [CAPS Emergency Policy Memorandum](#) is detailed in the following table. (Families or child care providers are not required to submit individual requests.) For detailed information on each waiver, go to the [CAPS Emergency Policy Memorandum](#) on the CAPS website **Updates** page at <https://caps.decal.ga.gov/en/Updates>, and click on **Emergency Policy Updates**. Until further notice, the emergency CAPS policy waivers identified in the [CAPS Emergency Policy Memorandum](#) shall supersede applicable policies contained in the CAPS policy manual.

Policy Waiver	Begin Date	End Date
Emergency CAPS family fee waiver	5/17/2021	10/2/2022
Emergency CAPS maximum reimbursement rate waiver	5/17/2021	10/2/2022
Temporary suspension of provider rate changes	5/17/2021	10/2/2022
Emergency CAPS payment policies waiver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active scholarships can be billed for any service period after the child attended child care in person at least once. Note: effective October 26, 2020, the provider must be <i>Open for Care</i> or in an approved <i>Temporarily Closed</i> status. 	3/16/2020	To be determined
Emergency CAPS state-approved activity policies waiver	3/16/2020	To be determined
Alternate methods for recording arrival and departure	4/8/2020	To be determined

Call 1-833-4GA-CAPS (1-833-442-2277) if you have questions or need additional information. To learn more about CAPS Policies and Procedures, visit <https://caps.decal.ga.gov/en/>.

Sincerely,



Elisabetta Kasfir

Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs