



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

May 27, 2021

Dear Child Care Provider,

In recent weeks, CAPS has been diligently working to ensure a seamless and effective transition into our latest initiative, **ACCESS** (**A**warding **C**hild **C**are **E**ducation **S**cholarship **S**upplements).

As we implement ACCESS, be aware of the following: Over the next few weeks, you may notice a variation of rates for different children listed on your account in the provider billing portal. Do not be concerned; scholarships are being updated as rates for your program are confirmed. These updates may take four to six weeks to complete. If scholarships on your account in the provider billing portal are not properly reflected by Friday, July 9, 2021, contact Maximus at 1-877-755-6522 for further investigation.

While the ACCESS initiative is in effect, CAPS will reimburse you according to your published rates. We will use the published rate as confirmed through your STABLE 3 application or by CAPS staff reaching out directly to your program. You cannot change your confirmed published rate for children subsidized by CAPS before October 2, 2022. Published rates are not retroactive and will be used to calculate payments through October 2, 2022. If you recently updated your rates either in your STABLE 3 application, or by CAPS staff reaching out directly to your program, you will begin receiving payment at the higher rate once the scholarship has been updated. Updates will occur over the next four to six weeks and may not reflect on all your scholarships at the same time.

We have updated providers throughout the pandemic about changes to the emergency CAPS policy waivers. In order for CAPS to predict costs and thereby maintain funding for ACCESS, to safeguard against unintended influence on market rates, and to allow providers financial flexibility, CAPS has implemented the following changes to CAPS emergency policies:

1. On May 17, 2021, CAPS reinstated the emergency policy suspending a provider's ability to change rates for children subsidized by CAPS.
2. **Beginning May 31, 2021**, CAPS will implement the ***Provider rate charged for children not subsidized by CAPS*** policy waiver. While this waiver is in effect, participating CAPS providers may charge a different rate for children **NOT** subsidized by CAPS than the rate charged for children subsidized by CAPS.

To learn more about this new waiver, visit the CAPS Updates page at <https://caps.decal.ga.gov/en/Updates>, select Emergency Policy Updates, and then select [CAPS Emergency Policy Memorandum](#).

May 7, 2021

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CAPS is hosting a live webinar to share information with CAPS providers about the ACCESS initiative on **Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 12:30 PM**. Use the following link to register for this important webinar:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/861553537469698574>.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serve Georgia children and their families.

Sincerely,



Elisabetta Kasfir
Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs