



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-5957

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

Amy M. Jacobs
COMMISSIONER

July 24, 2018

Re: Important Updates to CAPS Policies

Dear CAPS Child Care Provider,

Thank you to all who joined the CAPS Quality Rated webinars on June 20 and June 27, 2018. In the webinars, we provided important information about July 2018 changes to CAPS policy. A [recording](#) and [PDF](#) of the webinar is available on the CAPS website (www.CAPS.dec.al.ga.gov → Policy and Procedures → Provider Resources).

- 1) To better support families, DECAL is implementing significant changes to the family fee structure for CAPS families. Effective July 30, 2018, these changes include a 15% discount to the family fee for families who choose a Quality Rated provider and a change to the way the family fee is dispersed for families with multiple children in care.
 - Families will see this discount on their scholarships this summer.
 - The cost of the discount will not impact reimbursement rates because DECAL will pay the difference.
 - Tiered reimbursement for Quality Rated providers remains in effect.
 - The family fee will now be evenly divided among all children in care to ensure the Quality Rated discount applies to children at Quality Rated providers.
- 2) To save everyone time and help CAPS process applications more efficiently, providers will soon be required to enter and update their child care rates in the DECAL KOALA provider portal. We are developing an interface between KOALA and the Maximus provider payment system which will deploy this fall. Once all rates are in KOALA, and the interface is complete, families will no longer need to ask you to complete a Provider Rate Sheet for them. This will also reduce processing time when a new family is coming into your program. CAPS will follow up with more information on this very soon. Until then, no action is needed.
- 3) Another important change is to the state-approved activity requirement for families. Effective July 2, 2018, enrollment in associate degree programs at HOPE eligible institutions qualifies as a state-approved activity for CAPS. We also revised policy to allow for part-time enrollment in education and vocational training programs in combination with work, instead of requiring full-time enrollment. This will provide flexibility for our families to pursue their education while working if they choose. Families are still allowed to enroll full-time in education and training programs with no additional work requirement.

Thank you for all that you do to provide quality child care environments for our families. For more information on CAPS policy, visit www.CAPS.dec.al.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

Elisabetta Kasfir
Assistant Commissioner for Federal Programs
Department of Early Care and Learning