



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

August 21, 2020

Dear CAPS Child Care Provider,

To keep you informed, we have been sending regular memos updating you about CAPS policy waivers we have enacted to support you during these uncertain economic times caused by COVID-19.

I am now writing to give you a “heads up” about some upcoming changes to the *Emergency CAPS payment policies waiver* and *Temporary suspension of disallowing billing for CAPS and another state or federal program during the same service period*.

Last spring when Georgia’s Pre-K Program closed due to the pandemic, to provide child care programs with added financial support, CAPS paid for all school age children at the full-time rate regardless of whether school was closed, or it had re-opened and children were distance learning from home. Additionally, CAPS suspended our policy disallowing billing for CAPS and another state or federal program during the same service period. This meant that child care programs with a child enrolled in a Georgia’s Pre-K class received their Pre-K payment and were permitted to bill for the CAPS full-time rate if the child had a CAPS scholarship.

As Georgia’s Pre-K Program re-opens and school begins, CAPS will continue to allow billing for children with active scholarships, whether the child is present or absent, as long as the child attended at least once since March 1, 2020. However, to allow DECAL to pay for school-aged children who must attend child care full-time while participating in distance learning for school, we will soon implement the following changes:

- **Effective Monday, September 13, 2020**, CAPS will resume paying the appropriate rate based on the school calendar or the type of care provided to the child, **and** child care providers will no longer be allowed to bill CAPS and another state or federal program during the same service period.
- **Effective Monday, October 26, 2020**, with the exception of brief temporary closure, child care programs will be required to be open for care to bill for CAPS scholarships.



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If you have any questions regarding this upcoming policy change, contact us at CAPS.Support@dec.al.ga.gov. If you have any billing questions or issues, contact Maximus at 1-877-755-6522.

Thank you for all that you do for Georgia's families.

Sincerely,

Elisabetta Kasfir
Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs