

		 	 	;
TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented	

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
Alignment of Early Care providers re-opening guidance with Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Education (DOE), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)	N/A	Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) admin decision	Provide child care providers with re-opening guidance that details appropriate health and safety guidelines.	
DECAL Main Office Re- Opening guidance	N/A	DECAL admin decision	 Phase 1 of reopening began 06/04/20. DECAL's onsite staff, which will be limited in size, will receive visitors on Tuesday and Thursday. Georgia Building Authority (GBA), which manages the building where DECAL's office is located, encourages the use of face masks for anyone inside the building. GBA requires all staff and public to have their temperature tested by the provided temperature screening scanners at public entrance points. (DECAL FAQ) 06/04/20 	
Create an Afterschool, Summer Enrichment, Youth Development work group to strategically approach	N/A	Budget directive to Department of Early Care and Learning, the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, the Georgia Department of	• Unknown.	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
 Providing safe care and enrichment for school-age children and youth throughout the year Training for youth serving professionals 		Education, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Technical College System of Georgia, and the USG Extension Service		
Mitigate cuts to Georgia's Pre-K and Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)	N/A	State budget allocation	 Use a portion of Georgia Lottery Reserves to mitigate cuts to Georgia's Pre-K DECAL submitted a budget proposal to the House of Representativeness, Senate, and Office of Planning and Budget. DECAL Commissioner Amy Jacobs presented, on 05/26/20, the 14% budget reduction proposal to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Georgia's General Assembly recommended no budget cuts to Georgia Pre-K classrooms. Governor Kemp signed Georgia's State Fiscal Year Budget with no budget cuts to Georgia Pre-K classrooms: 84,500 child care slots reserved; and \$500,000 restored for CAPS. 	
Provide guidance for Day Camp settings	N/A	DECAL guidance	 DECAL provides health and safety guidance, which align with CDC guidelines and the 05/12/20 Executive Order (EO), for day camp settings. (05/12/20) DECAL shared a Day Camp Decision Tree infographic, which was created by the CDC. (05/18/20) Governor Kemp issued an EO, effective 06/16/20 until 06/30/20: 	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented	

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
			 Campers and staff cannot attend an overnight camp unless they have received a negative COVID-19 test within 12 days up—up from 7 days—prior to starting camp; and 	
			 Childcare facilities may only transport children between their residence and the childcare facility. 	
			DECAL provided <u>guidance</u> for License-Exempt Day Camps (07/01/20).	
Provide guidance on virtual inspections	N/A	DECAL guidance	DECAL has temporarily added a virtual and online component to child care regulation. (05/06/20)	
			DECAL provided <u>guidance</u> on annual report required reporting for virtual visit inspections. (05/06/20)	
DECAL distribute clear and consistent health and safety guidance to child	N/A	DECAL guidance	DECAL Commissioner <u>acknowledges provider's expertise</u> in practicing and teaching health and hygiene that are in accordance with DPH and CDC guidelines. (03/20/20)	WA: documents detailing
care providers			DECAL provides <u>guidance</u> on health and safety protocol for child care providers. (03/25/20)	<u>health and</u> <u>safety</u> guidance
			DECAL <u>FAQ</u> provides child care specific CDC guidance.	for arrival,
			DECAL states providers should follow all licensing regulations and public health department guidance.	departure, play areas,
			 Governor Kemp issued an <u>EO</u> (04/23/20), effective 05/01/20 through 05/13/20, stating that licensed child care providers may continue to operate, while still following standard hygiene and disinfectant guidelines provided by <u>DECAL</u>. (04/27/20) 	meal time, and hygiene practices
			DECAL <u>released</u> a guidance check-list for child care operations that ensure compliance with the 04/23/20 EO.	 IA: documents detailing
			DECAL <u>FAQ</u> provides a list of resources for PPE vendors. (05/04/20)	guidance for <u>health</u>



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented	

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
			DECAL issued <u>guidance</u> for the following child care operation practices, which follow the <u>EO</u> issued on 05/12/20 by Governor Kemp:	<u>hygiene</u> <u>practices</u>
			 Limit group sizes to a maximum of 20 people per room, including teachers; 	
			 Restrict eating to classroom instead of congregate/communal settings; 	
			 Health screenings upon arrival; 	
			o Limited access to facility;	
			 Sanitization and disinfectant protocol; and 	
			 Modify sign in/ sign out procurers. 	
			(05/13/20)	
			 DECAL provides health and safety <u>guidance</u>, which aligns with CDC guidelines, for operating child care providers. (05/12/20) 	
			DECAL shared a <u>Child Care Program Decision Tree</u> infographic, which was created by the CDC. (05/18/20)	
			DECAL posted a CDC follow-up <u>letter</u> which highlights resources for child care providers. (05/18/20)	
			 Governor Kemp issued an <u>EO</u> on 05/28/20 stating that all Child Care Licensing Centers and Family Child Learning Homes under DECAL should maintain worker-child ratios set by DECAL. Ratio information can be found in DECAL's frequently updated <u>FAQ</u>. 	
			DECAL provides a <u>checklist</u> and <u>guidance</u> to ensure child care operations compliance with Governor Kemp's 06/11/20_EO, effective 06/16/20.	
			DECAL provides Pre-K operation guidance.	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
Issue emergency waivers for CAPS	N/A	DECAL guidance	 DECAL issued (04/08/20) the following policy waivers, updated on 04/23/20, 05/20/20, 06/05/20, 06/19/20, 07/03/20, and 07/17/20 for CAPS: Emergency CAPS Payment from 03/16/20 through 07/31/20. Emergency CAPS State-Approved Activity from 03/16/20 through 07/31/20. Temporary suspension of disallowing billing for CAPS and another state or federal program during the same service period 04/08/20 through 07/31/20. Essential Services Workforce Priority Group from 04/01/20 through TBD. Temporary suspension of family signatures on CAPS arrival/departure records from 04/08/20 through 07/31/20. 	
Extend CAPS Quality Rated 2020 deadline	N/A	DECAL guidance	DECAL FAQ states that a new deadline will be announced after the public health emergency subsides. Expected new deadline will be on or after 06/30/21. (04/09/20)	
Create Essential Services Workforce	N/A	DECAL guidance	 DECAL has established a new priority group, Essential Services Workforce, for Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). (04/01/20) Essential Services Workforce Tier 1 includes: Law enforcement, public safety, and first responder personnel; Medical personnel who provide direct care to patients and the personnel who support direct care to patients; Pharmacy personnel; and Child care personnel. 	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented	

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
			 Essential Services Workforce Tier 2 includes: Food and grocery store personnel; Convenience store personnel; Pharmacy personnel not included in Tier 1; Food and grocery manufacturing; Food processing; Farming and food production; Food and grocery storage, distribution, or transit; Food and grocery delivery; and Restaurant food preparation, service, or delivery. (04/30/20) DECAL has a three-tier definition for eligible families for the Essential Services Workforce. DECAL will re-evaluate 05/01/20 to determine when to open Tier 2. (04/21/20) The CAPS scholarship application for Essential Service Workforce Priority Group can be found here. (04/16/20) 	
Assist families impacted by COVID-19 in accessing child care • Connect parents with operating child care providers	N/A	DECAL guidance	 DECAL is encouraging families to visit www.qualityrated.org or call 1-477-ALL-GA-KIDS (Call Center). (03/20/20) DECAL is assisting families in child care searches through the Call Center. (03/20/20) Governor Kemp, DECAL, and YMCA Metro Atlanta created a partnership to dedicate child care sites for medical workers. (03/18/20) YMCA Metro Atlanta has shared their critical child care model with other YMCAs; each site has deciding authority. 	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented	

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
 Provide up to date resources and information regarding child care changes 			 DECAL <u>FAQ</u> asks providers to report closures immediately. DECAL is contacting providers that have not reflected their operation hour information on KOALA. DECAL is <u>updating</u>, daily, child care sites closing and operating. Current updates can be found on DECAL social media and <u>website</u>. 	
Provide enhanced child care referrals	N/A	DECAL guidance	DECAL is assisting all families in child care searches through the Call Center. (03/20/20) Note: An enhanced referral occurs when CCR&R coordinates with child care programs to confirm vacancies before the referral is offered to the parent.	
Ensure Family Child Care Learning Homes (FCCLHs) can continue operations	N/A	DECAL licensing regulations DECAL guidance EO	 Governor Kemp has not mandated child care programs to close. Per DECAL guidance, FCCLH serve up to 6 children, and may continue to operate (FCCLHs must ensure no more than 10 individuals are present at one time). (03/23/20) Professional Family Child Care Alliance of Georgia has a crisis management team addressing FCCLH's concerns. DECAL is including FCCLHs in current supports—any supports in the CARES Act will include, if guidance permits, FCCLHs. (DECAL FAQ) FCCLHs can provide night time care—providers must complete an amendment and still comply with the limit of no more than individuals. (DECAL FAQ) 	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
Utilize Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) networks • Provide support and resources to providers • Assist providers in meeting staffing needs	N/A	DECAL guidance	 All 4 GA CCR&R's, covering 159 counties through 6 regional networks, have created COVID-19 informational pages linking to resources and DECAL updates. Quality Care for Children Albany State University Augusta University/ Leap Early Learning Partners Savannah Technical College DECAL is working with CCR&R and the Call Center to address available child care seats for COVID-19 responders. 	
Ensure adequate funding to support child care and afterschool program sustainability	Office of the Administration for Children and Families, CCDF (03/13/20): "lead agencies may use CCDF quality dollars to provide temporary grants or assistance to impacted providers to retain the child care supply during periods of closures"	DECAL assist in creation of a Statewide Disaster Plan for child care	 Georgia received a statewide disaster declaration from U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Small business owners can apply for a SBA Economic Injury Loan. (DECAL FAQ) DECAL will make Georgia Pre-K payments for April and May based on April roster. (DECAL FAQ) DECAL will make CAPS payments through service week 04/10/20, if the child has attended at least once since 03/01/20. (DECAL FAQ) DECAL will continue to re-evaluate CAPS payment policy on a 2-week time frame. DECAL is awaiting guidance on funds utilization authorized by The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act from U.S. Congress. As of 04/13/20, DECAL has not received official notification or guidance related to the CARES act. DECAL is preparing how to disburse funds but must wait for official notification and guidance to release more information. (DECAL FAQ) (04/14/20) 	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented	

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
			 Georgia received \$144 million under CARES Act. For the first phase of fund distributions, licensed Child Care Providers, starting 05/01/20, can apply for the DECAL Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities (STABLE) payments. DECAL hosted a provider webinar for general updates and STABLE Q&A. STABLE grant application can be found here. It can be accessed through 05/15/20. (05/07/20) Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning received a \$250,000 grant award that will be used to provide assistance to child care programs and families within the 23-couunty Atlanta metro area. (04/20/20) Grant is open for applications. (04/28/20) 	
Enhance <u>KOALA</u> for provider closure updates	N/A	DECAL guidance	 KOALA enhancement complete and allows providers to report operations and closures. (DECAL <u>FAQ</u>) DECAL is contacting providers that have not reflected their operation hour information. 	
Ensure all child care programs to utilize KOALA to report the following within 48 hours of occurrence Partial or full closures Open seats by age group	N/A	DECAL guidance	 DECAL <u>FAQ</u> asks providers to report closures immediately. DECAL is <u>updating</u>, daily, child care sites closing and operating. Current updates can be found on DECAL social media and <u>website</u>. 	 IL: requesting sites to report closure PA: report all closures



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented	

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
Suspend quality rated observations	N/A	DECAL guidance	 DECAL has suspended quality rated observations until 06/30/20. (DECAL FAQ) (04/09/20) DECAL FAQ provides detailed updated information on quality rated. (04/28/20) 	
 Address regulations for child care providers Family/guardian access to facility Access front door of facility and classrooms Immunization requirements Field trips CPR and First Aid Certification 	N/A	EO	 Governor Kemp released an Executive Order (03/24/20) addressing revised regulations: Providers to restrict family/guardian access to facility. Providers to limit access to front door of facility and classrooms. Suspend immunization requirements as a result of limited health care sector capacity. Suspend field trips. Child Care Centers must have 1 staff member and 1 administrator with a CPR and First Aid Certification on premises. DECAL provided guidance on health and safety protocol for child care providers. (03/25/20) 	
Continue Georgia Pre-K payments, regardless of closures	N/A	DECAL guidance	 DECAL will make payments for April and May based on April roster. (DECAL <u>FAQ</u>) All Georgia Pre-K will be <u>closed</u> for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. (04/02/20) (DECAL <u>FAQ</u>) Guidance for programs regarding Work Sampling Online can be found <u>here</u>. (04/28/20) Guidance for programs regarding close-out can be found <u>here</u>. (04/28/20) 	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented	

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
Continue CAPS payments, regardless of closures	N/A	DECAL guidance	 DECAL will make CAPS payments through service week 04/10/20, if the child has attended at least once since 03/01/20. (DECAL FAQ) DECAL will continue to re-evaluate CAPS payment policy on a 2-week time span. 	
DECAL distribute food program participation guidance to child care providers	N/A	Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) guidance	 DECAL FAQ provides daily updates and clarifications to current food program protocol. DECAL created a Nutrition Services Emergency Feeding Vendor Resource List. (05/6/20) The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) created downloadable Team Nutrition resources regarding meal service flexibilities: Child Nutrition Program Meal Service During COVID-19: Best Practices for Parent Pick Up and Feeding Kids When Schools Are Closed Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19). 	
Apply for requirement waivers for CACFP to address food access	USDA, FNS (03/20/20) issued nationwide waivers: 60-Day Reporting Requirement Non- Congregate Meals	DECAL submit waiver request to USDA, FNS	DECAL (FAQ) will participate in the following nationwide waivers during the public health emergency for CACFP programs: Nationwide CACFP State Agency Monitoring (Annual Review) Waiver: waives the requirement to complete CACFP monitoring on site. This waiver remains in effect until 08/31/20 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. Nationwide 60 Day Reporting Requirement Waiver: waives the 60-day reimbursement claims deadline. This waiver applies for claims covering operations for January and February 2020.	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented	

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
	Meal time Activity		Deadlines for these two claims months are extended for 30 calendar days from their original required date of submission	
	Requirement Meal Pick Up		Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver: programs are not required to meet all meal pattern requirements. This waiver has been extended and will stay in effect until 06/30/21.	
	Meal Pattern On-Site Monitor		Nationwide Meal Pick Up Waiver: program can distribute meals to parents/guardians. This waiver remains in effect until 06/30/21 per USDA extension.	
			<u>Nationwide Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver:</u> meals do not have to be served in a congregate setting or consumed on site. This waiver remains in effect until 06/30/21 per <u>USDA extension</u> .	
			Nationwide Meal Service Times Waiver: sites are not required to follow meal service time requirements. Allows CACFP sponsors to align meal times w/ available community programs and services. This waiver remains in effect until 06/30/21 per USDA extension.	
			Nationwide No Activity Requirement for Afterschool CACFP: No enrichment or educational activity needed during At-Risk-After-School programs. This waiver remains in effect until 06/30/20 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.	
			Nationwide Area Eligibility: Allows program operators to open sites in areas that do not meet area eligibility requirements—areas with poor economic conations. This waiver remains in effect through 08/31/20.	
Apply for requirement waivers for SFSP to address food access	USDA, FNS issued nationwide waivers:	DECAL submit waiver request to USDA, FNS	DECAL submitted the following SFSP waiver:	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
	Reporting Requirement Non- Congregate Meals Meal time Activity Requirement Meal Pick Up Meal Pattern On-Site Monitor USDA, FNS issued SFSP and SSO meal delivery guidance		Allow SFSP sponsors of open, restricted open, and enrolled sites (all in good standing, and within DECAL discretion) to serve up to 2 meals and 1 snack per day. • DECAL (FAQ) will participate in the following nationwide waivers during the public health emergency for SFSP programs: Nationwide Extension of Unanticipated School Closures Waiver: delays transition from National School Lunch Program to Seamless Summer Option and SFSP. Nationwide Food Service Management Contract Waiver: waives contract duration, use emergency noncompetitive procurement for a one-year extension. Nationwide 60 Day Reporting Requirement Waiver: waives the 60-day reimbursement claims deadline. This waiver applies for claims covering operations for January and February 2020. Deadlines for these two claims months are extended for 30 calendar days from their original required date of submission Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver: programs are not required to meet all meal pattern requirements. DECAL provides guidance for menu alternatives. This waiver remains in effect until 07/31/20 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. Nationwide Onsite Monitoring Waiver: postpone requiring SFSP onsite visits extended to 08/31/20. Additional details can be found in the DECAL FAQ. Nationwide Meal Pick Up Waiver: program can distribute meals to parents/guardians. This waiver remains in effect until 08/31/20 per USDA extension.	



TABLE KEY:	= in progress	= need more information or forthcoming	= not being implemented	

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
			Nationwide Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver: meals do not have to be served in a congregate setting or consumed on site. This waiver remains in effect until 08/31/20 per USDA extension. Nationwide Meal Service Times Waiver: allows SFSP sponsors to align meal times w/ available community programs and services. This waiver remains in effect until 09/30/20 per USDA extension. Nationwide Area Eligibility: Allows program operators to open sites in areas that do not meet area eligibility requirements—areas with poor economic conations. This waiver remains in effect through 08/31/20.	
Allow Exempt Summer Programs to provide services for school age children		DECAL guidance	DECAL <u>FAQ</u> allows exempt day camp programs to operate as during any other school break – but will not allow any added flexibilities to the exemption process.	