

COVID-19 Policy Response: Afterschool

Last Updated: July 23, 2020 (new updates in orange) | Check for updates [here](#), and check out Voices for Georgia's Children's COVID-19 Response Resources [here](#).

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Georgia Budget Recommendation

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date (Ext.)	Other State Action / Population
<p>Create an Afterschool, Summer Enrichment, Youth Development work group to strategically approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing safe care and enrichment for school-age children and youth throughout the year • Training for youth serving professionals 	N/A	Budget directive to Department of Early Care and Learning, the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, the Georgia Department of Education, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Technical College System of Georgia, and the USG Extension Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Governor's K-12 Restart Working Groups, a subgroup on Supplemental Learning was <u>created</u> to strategize and release guidance for schools. Recommendations from this subgroup are coming soon, according to the GaDOE Georgia Insights website. 	

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Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date (Ext.)	Other State Action / Population
Provide guidance for Day Camp settings	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 guidance for License-Exempt Day Camps (07/01/20). 	
Issue emergency waivers for Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	

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DECAL distribute clear and consistent health and safety guidance to child care providers	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECAL Commissioner acknowledges provider's expertise in practicing and teaching health and hygiene that are in accordance with DPH and CDC guidelines. (03/20/20) • DECAL provides guidance on health and safety protocol for child care providers. (03/25/20) • DECAL FAQ provides child care specific CDC guidance. • DECAL states providers should follow all licensing regulations and public health department guidance. • Governor Kemp issued an EO (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 DECAL. (04/27/20) • DECAL released a guidance check-list for child care operations that ensure compliance with the 04/23/20 EO. • DECAL FAQ provides a list of resources for PPE vendors. (05/04/20) • DECAL issued guidance for the following child care operation practices, which follow the EO issued on 05/12/20 by Governor Kemp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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; ○ Limited access to facility; ○ Sanitization and disinfectant protocol; and ○ Modify sign in/ sign out procurers. (05/13/20) • DECAL provides health and safety guidance, which aligns with CDC guidelines, for operating child care providers. (05/12/20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA: health and safety guidance for arrival, departure, play areas, meal time, and hygiene practices • IA: guidance for health hygiene practices

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECAL shared a Child Care Program Decision Tree infographic, which was created by the CDC. (05/18/20) DECAL posted a CDC follow-up letter which highlights resources for child care providers. (05/18/20) Governor Kemp issued an EO 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 FAQ. DECAL provides a checklist and guidance to ensure child care operations compliance with Governor Kemp's 06/11/20 EO, effective 06/16/20. 	
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 Meal time Activity Requirement Meal Pick Up Meal Pattern On-Site Monitor	DECAL submit waiver request to USDA, FNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 09/30/20 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. (04/24/20) 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. (04/01/20) 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 06/30/20. (05/14/20) Nationwide Onsite Monitoring Waiver: waives required CACFP site/facility review and review processes through 06/30/20. Available to all sponsoring organizations that elect to use it. Additional details can be found in the DECAL FAQ. (03/27/20) 	

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			<p><u>Nationwide Meal Pick Up Waiver</u>: program can distribute meals to parents/guardians. This waiver remains in effect until 08/31/20 per <u>USDA extension</u>. (05/18/20)</p> <p><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 08/31/20 per <u>USDA extension</u>. (05/18/20)</p> <p><u>Nationwide Meal Service Times Waiver</u>: 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 08/31/20 per <u>USDA extension</u>. (05/18/20)</p> <p><u>Nationwide No Activity Requirement for Afterschool CACFP</u>: 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. (03/20/20)</p> <p><u>Nationwide Area Eligibility</u>: 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.</p>	
Apply for requirement waivers for SFSP to address food access	USDA, FNS issued nationwide waivers: <u>60-Day Reporting Requirement</u> <u>Non-Congregate Meals</u> <u>Meal time</u> <u>Activity Requirement</u> <u>Meal Pick Up</u> <u>Meal Pattern</u>	DECAL submit waiver request to USDA, FNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECAL submitted the following SFSP waiver: <u>Allow</u> 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. (03/18/20) DECAL (<u>FAQ</u>) will participate in the following nationwide waivers during the public health emergency for SFSP programs: <u>Nationwide Extension of Unanticipated School Closures Waiver</u>: delays transition from National School Lunch Program to Seamless Summer Option and SFSP. (04/27/20) 	

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	<p>On-Site Monitor</p> <p>USDA, FNS issued SFSP and SSO meal delivery guidance</p>		<p>Nationwide Food Service Management Contract Waiver: waives contract duration, use emergency noncompetitive procurement for a one-year extension. (04/24/20)</p> <p>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. (04/01/20)</p> <p>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 04/30/20 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. (03/25/20)</p> <p>Nationwide Onsite Monitoring Waiver: postpone requiring SFSP onsite visits. Additional details can be found in the DECAL FAQ. (03/27/20)</p> <p>Nationwide Meal Pick Up Waiver: program can distribute meals to parents/guardians. This waiver remains in effect until 08/31/20 per USDA extension. (05/18/20)</p> <p>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. (05/18/20)</p> <p>Nationwide Meal Service Times Waiver: allows SFSP sponsors to align meal times w/ available community programs and services. This waiver remains in effect until 08/31/20 per USDA extension. (05/18/20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationwide Area Eligibility: Allows program operators to open sites in areas that do not meet area eligibility requirements—areas with poor economic conditions. This waiver remains in effect through 08/31/20. 	
DECAL distribute food program participation guidance to child care providers	N/A	Department of Early Care and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECAL FAQ provides daily updates and clarifications to current food program protocol. 	

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		(DECAL) guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 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). 	
Provide guidance on virtual visit inspections	N/A	DECAL Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECAL has temporarily added a virtual and online component to child care regulation. (05/06/20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ DECAL provided guidance on annual report required reporting for virtual visit inspections. (05/06/20) 	
Suspend quality rated observations	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) 	
Extend CAPS Quality Rated 2020 deadline	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) 	
Clarify work authorization papers are not needed for travel during shelter-in-place order	N/A	Governor statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Kemp issued a statement saying that the shelter-in-place order issued on 04/02/20 does not require any worker to carry authorization letters to be on Georgia roads. (04/08/20) 	
Create Essential Services Workforce	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECAL has established a new priority group, Essential Services Workforce, for Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). (04/01/20) • Essential Services Workforce includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Law enforcement, public safety, and first responder personnel; 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medical personnel who provide direct care to patients and the personnel who support direct care to patients; ○ Pharmacy personnel; and ○ Child care personnel. ● Essential Services Workforce Tier 2 includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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) 	
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	DECAL assist in creation of a Statewide Disaster Plan for child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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) 	

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	providers to retain the child care supply during periods of closures"		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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-county Atlanta metro area. (04/20/20) Grant is open for applications. (04/28/20) 	
Continue CAPS payments, regardless of closures	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	

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Assist families impacted by COVID-19 in accessing child care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect parents with operating child care providers • Provide up to date resources and information regarding child care changes 	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • DECAL FAQ asks providers to report closures immediately. • DECAL is contacting providers that have not reflected their operation hour information on KOALA. • DECAL is updating, daily, child care sites closing and operating. • Current updates can be found on DECAL social media and website. 	
Provide enhanced child care referrals	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
Utilize Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and resources to providers • Assist providers in meeting staffing needs 	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 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. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance KOALA for provider closure updates 	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KOALA enhancement complete and allows providers to report operations and closures. (DECAL FAQ) DECAL is contacting providers that have not reflected their operation hour information. 	
Allow Exempt Summer Programs to provide services for school age children		DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECAL FAQ allows exempt day camp programs to operate as during any other school break – but will not allow any added flexibilities to the exemption process. 	
<p>Ensure all child care programs to utilize KOALA to report the following within 48 hours of occurrence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial or full closures Open seats by age group 	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECAL FAQ asks providers to report closures immediately. DECAL is updating, daily, child care sites closing and operating. Current updates can be found on DECAL social media and website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MA: require report of closure within 24 hours IL: requesting sites to report closure PA: report all closures
<p>Address regulations for child care providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family/guardian access to facility Access front door of facility and classrooms Immunization requirements Field trips <p>CPR and First Aid Certification</p>	N/A	EO	<p>Governor Kemp released an Executive Order (03/24/20) addressing revised regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 provides guidance on health and safety protocol for child care providers. (03/25/20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

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Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE)

Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
Allow flexibility for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (afterschool programming) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow staff to check-in with families, provide and connect participants to academic resources, meals and other supports, and work on health and wellness for students and families Allow flexibility in monitoring, attendance and other grant requirements Waive the 2020 state reporting requirements, including the Annual Summative Assessment and Common Data Elements Clarify budget flexibility so funds can be spent to serve current needs beyond those students typically served Provide guidance on summer programming and clarity on likelihood of and materials and processes needed to resume in-person programming 	N/A	GaDOE guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GaDOE Federal Program FAQ (3/25/20): <p>All 21st CCLC subgrantees should adhere to guidelines established by their Local Education Agency (LEA) or parent agency (non-LEA). GaDOE provides guidance for virtual and at-home learning activities. 21st CCLC subgrantees should adhere to established internal Local Educational Agency (LEAs) and agency (non-LEAs) guidelines for program operation when establishing schedules for virtual learning opportunities. (04/22/20)</p> <p>GaDOE lays out conditions and virtual activities for which 21st CCLC staff can be paid.</p> <p>GaDOE still awaiting guidance on reporting guidelines and encourages subgrantees to enter student program attendance data, administer surveys where feasible, and maintain communications with External Evaluators. (04/22/20)</p> <p>21st CCLC programs are encouraged to schedule make-up days but GaDOE has not established a requirement.</p> <p>GaDOE lays out guidance for additional programming hours.</p> <p>GaDOE states lessons plans can be used to supplement time documentation not detailed work logs. (04/01/20)</p> <p>GaDOE encourages subgrantees to record virtual student attendance data but days missed due to extended closures and lower average daily attendance totals will not negatively impact 21st CCLC subgrantees. (04/22/20)</p> <p>GaDOE states subgrantees may modify the number of hours provided to students engaged in virtual programming. (04/22/20)</p> <p>GaDOE has not established guidance for onsite summer programming but encourages subgrantees to plan for virtual summer learning activities. (04/22/20)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OH: provides guidance on operational decisions, allowable work for pay, virtual programming, and expands the grant period CT: allowing staff to be paid MI: continues to pay staff and will adjust the number of hours required to operate MO: outlines allowable work for pay

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow using funds to secure PPE, disinfecting products, and other resources needed to open Allow programs to conduct virtual or other at-home programming Continue payments to staff during closure Create flexibility in makeup days required Allow expansion of regularly scheduled program hours Provide clarification on detailed work logs Allow modification of virtual programming hours Allow carryover of all unexpended FY20 funds into FY21 Clarify details about professional development sessions 			<p>GaDOE will waive the annual 15% carryover percentage limitation and permit carryover of all unexpended funds from FY20 into FY21. (04/22/20)</p> <p>GaDOE is holding annual 21st CCLC subgrantee conference via virtual professional development sessions. Additional details regarding professional development sessions for subgrantees are forthcoming. (04/22/20)</p>	
Create and disseminate guidance regarding pros and cons to reopening schools and providing summer learning programs, and	N/A	GaDOE practice and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgia DOE released Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools on 06/01/20, which details the following guidance for a safe return back to school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practicing prevention 	

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<p>logistical options for schools to explore if planning to reopen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance could include data relevant to the pandemic, ideas for classroom gathering structures, developmentally appropriate public safety practices for students and staff, logistics for school and summer nutrition, hallway movement/class transitions, bus transportation and more • Guidance would include consideration of any possible efficiencies to be found to help mitigate burdensome budgetary demands 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transporting students ○ Entering school buildings ○ Serving meals ○ Transitioning between classes and spaces within the school ○ Conducting large group gatherings ○ Supporting teaching and learning ○ Protecting vulnerable populations 	
<p>Ensure families have access to a safe, equipped space to participate in distance learning</p> <p>Afterschool providers, community centers, schools, and school districts should work together to coordinate these spaces</p>	<p>Section 300.101 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act outlines that a free and appropriate public education must be available to all children ages 3 to 21.</p>	<p>Local school/school district coordination with afterschool providers and community resource centers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Governor's K-12 Restart Working Groups, a subgroup on Connectivity and Devices was created, and the subgroup has released recommendations that include a map of all Georgia schools and their three closest public libraries, many of which offer WiFi. • Public information about coordination between afterschool providers, community centers, schools and school districts is not known at this time. 	

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<p>Ensure children have <u>safe access to meals</u> otherwise provided by the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where feasible, allow afterschool and summer programs to continue to act as meal delivery sites; allow their staff to assist in home meal delivery Access to food is becoming more of a challenge for families as incomes diminish and increased exposure risks in food distribution 	Families First Coronavirus Response Act (03/18/20): Gives states the option to provide meals as they would under federal programs (e.g. School Lunch Act) during school closures	GaDOE waiver; local school district application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFCS has created a P-EBT webpage on the application and eligibility process. DFCS has been collaborating with community partners on promotion of P-EBT. A P-EBT amount of <u>\$256.50 in benefits</u> is available to the more than <u>1 million eligible children</u>, who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch. (07/14/20) Georgia's K-12 Restart: School Meals Working Group released a guidance document around 3 meal services models: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional/cafeteria, Mobile, and Packed/delivery. USDA, FNS has approved Georgia's P-EBT plan. Benefits distribution is projected for July. (06/09/20) P-EBT allows <u>SNAP and non-SNAP households</u> — who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced priced meals through the school system — eligibility for P-EBT. Certain waivers that allow GaDOE to allow meal provision to students outside the school setting were <u>extended</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Congregate Feeding: Meals can be served to children outside of the normally-required group setting to support social distancing until 06/30/21. Parent Pickup: Parents and/or guardians can pick up meals and take them home to eligible participants until 06/30/21. Meal Times: The requirement that meals must follow meal service time requirements is waived during the public health emergency, until 06/30/21. Meal Pattern: This waiver provides flexibility in providing required meal components when there are food supply issues; extended until 06/30/21. 	

COVID-19 Policy Response: Afterschool

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Georgia was approved by the U.S. Dept. of Education for its CARES Act application, which brought over \$411m in one-time funding to the state for COVID-19 related expenses, including meals, distance learning, mental and physical health, services for at-risk student populations, and continuity of core staff and services, among other items. See GaDOE FAQ on CARES Act funding here. (05/04/20) 	
Provide digital learning (a/k/a distance instruction) resources on par with in-person classroom curriculum, to the greatest extent possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural students in the U.S. are 15 times more likely to lack internet access than others Continue supporting youth access to devices and internet connection (i.e. hotspots) over the summer months Consider that education must be provided equitably 	N/A	GaDOE administrative policy and practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the Governor's K-12 Restart Working Groups, subgroups on Distance Learning & Professional Learning and Connectivity & Devices were created to strategize and release guidance for schools. Recommendations from these subgroup have been released: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> see the Distance Learning & Professional Learning recommendations here; and the Connectivity & Devices recommendations here. The Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative issued a new map that documents access to high-speed internet on a household-level. More than 1 million Georgians lack access to reliable high-speed internet service. (07/01/20) A map of public WiFi is available here. According to the Governor's Office press release, there have been \$38.2 million in infrastructure investment commitments related to internet connectivity in the past few months. It is estimated these would serve 23,000 locations. (07/01/20) Parents are encouraged to reach out to counselors, administrators and other support staff from schools if overwhelmed with blended learning demands; if the districts are not responsive, contact GaDOE by emailing schoolsafety@doe.k12.ga.us and they can assist. 	

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<p>(e.g. internet access may be a barrier for some)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support teachers in learning how to educate in this new way 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If parents are being reported for educational neglect during the crisis, alert GaDOE at schoolsafety@doe.k12.ga.us and they can look into the situations. An AT&T donation to the GaDOE Foundation for Public Education will allow 448 "Wi-Fi Rangers" to bring internet connection to rural areas via school buses or other vehicles in 36 school districts. Each ranger enables up to 45 device connections. Schools were selected based on poverty level, student-to-device ratio, and the school's status on the Comprehensive Support & Improvement or Targeted Support & Improvement lists. (05/12/20) An additional 3,000 buses will be dispatched around the start of the school year. (GaDOE communication, 07/23/20) Comcast has partnered with Atlanta Public Schools to provide students in need with 12 months of free high-speed internet and/or a free laptop. The Georgia Emergency Management Agency is working with a non-profit partner to provide connectivity in rural communities and solve the "homework gap" for students who need access to the internet for distance learning. Learn more here. For individuals lacking connectivity, they can submit a request here. In addition, families who need internet service can go to EveryoneOn.org where they can see offers from providers. GaDOE is awarding over \$21.5m to 55 school districts for digital/distance learning infrastructure, including devices, training, software, mobile hotspots. (04/28/20) Georgia was approved by the U.S. Dept. of Education for its CARES Act application, which brought over \$411m in one-time funding to the state for COVID-19 related expenses, including meals, distance learning, mental and physical health, services for at-risk student populations, and continuity of core staff and services, among other items. See GaDOE FAQ on CARES Act funding here. (05/04/20) 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GaDOE is partnering with the Georgia Foundation for Public Education & Verizon to donate digital devices, preloaded with software and books. An estimated 660,000 devices are needed. • Tax-deductible donations to help get digital devices into students' hands can be made at www.gfpe.org/invest. • Amerigroup has worked with DFCS to provide iPads to some children in foster care to ensure their continued access to online education. <p><i>Additional Distance Instruction Resources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GaDOE's Office of Teaching and Learning offers digital learning planning resources. • More digital learning resources are available from Get Georgia Reading. • GaDOE and GPB launched the Georgia Home Classroom initiative, an instructional TV broadcast, with a library of digital learning resources (currently PK-5; middle and high school to come). • GaDOE has a list of training opportunities and resources for educators to learn how to teach virtually. 	
Provide up-to-date information on school closures and related resources (and openings, when the time comes)	N/A	GaDOE communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Order (04/01/20): All schools currently closed through the end of the school year. • GaDOE provides up-to-date info on school closures at https://www.georgiainsights.com/georgia-school-closures.html. • The Georgia Insights website has a multitude of resources on school closures, distance learning, equity in education, meal donations, testing, and more. 	

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<p>Use McKinney-Vento and Title I, Part A federal funding flexibility to support students experiencing homelessness to the greatest extent possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 40,000 students were experiencing homelessness in Georgia before the pandemic • According to GaDOE, schools can seek support of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), which provides Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds to for housing needs 	N/A	GaDOE directive; school district and school action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia has been approved for U.S. Dept. of Education for its CARES Act application, which will bring one-time funding to the state for COVID-19 related expenses, including meals, distance learning, mental and physical health, services for at-risk student populations, and continuity of core staff and services, among other items. (GaDOE Communication, 04/30/20) • Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) issued guidance to schools on how to use McKinney-Vento funds in new ways to meet students' needs, including extended learning over the summer. (03/26/20) • Title I, Part A funds can also be used for a wide range of items and services to support students experiencing homelessness, including food, medical and dental services, counseling, clothing, and extended learning services/tutoring. (03/26/20) • Title I, Part A funds can also be used for outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences. (03/26/20) 	

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Provide appropriate support and accommodations to students experiencing homelessness to avoid academic setbacks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current need for internet access and digital devices for distance learning creates additional barriers to learning and academic success for economically disadvantaged students 	N/A	GaDOE directive; school district and school action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgia has been approved for U.S. Dept. of Education for its CARES Act application, which will bring one-time funding to the state for COVID-19 related expenses, including meals, distance learning, mental and physical health, services for at-risk student populations, and continuity of core staff and services, among other items. (GaDOE Communication, 04/30/20) GaDOE guidance recommends that schools provide alternatives for families lacking internet access. See a full checklist of accommodations here. (03/26/20) GaDOE guidance states that the McKinney-Vento act allows for "Other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless students to attend school," which could allow schools to use McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) grant funding or the Title I, Part A homeless set-aside funding. (03/26/20) 	
Suspend standardized testing Reduce the impact of SAT/ACT cancellations on graduating seniors	Letter from Secretary DeVos (03/20/20): US DOE accepting waivers on assessment and accountability requirements, relaxing state testing requirements	DOE waiver; GaDOE administrative policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments have been cancelled. GaDOE issued a Q&A on the cancellation and its impact. (03/27/20) Georgia has received formal approval from the federal government to waive testing and accountability requirements for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, in response to their application for a federal assessment waiver. (04/07/20) State assessment and accountability requirements have been reduced as well. (04/07/20) <p><u>SAT/ACT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March and May SAT tests have been cancelled. The April ACT test has been postponed to June. Many colleges have made SAT/ACT scores an optional application component, and/or have extended deadlines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 34 states have sought a waiver from US DOE to suspend testing