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**COVID-19 Policy Response: Afterschool**

Last Updated: May 8, 2020 (new updates in orange) | Check for updates [here](#), and check out Voices for Georgia’s Children’s COVID-19 Response Resources [here](#).

## 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 on virtual visit inspections	N/A	DECAL Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL has temporarily added a virtual and online component to child care regulation. (05/06/20)</li> <li>DECAL provided <a href="#">guidance</a> on annual report required reporting for virtual visit inspections. (05/06/20)</li> </ul>	
DECAL distribute food program participation guidance to child care providers	N/A	DECAL Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a> provides daily updates and clarifications to current food program protocol.</li> <li>School Food Authority, or other sponsor, participating in both Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) may allow children to pick up multiple meals, but not exceed maximum meals allowed per program. (04/14/20)</li> <li>With state agency approval, SFSP and SSO service programs may serve meals on days when schools originally planned to close, including weekends, spring break, and other scheduled days. (04/14/20)</li> <li>With state agency approval, CACFP institutions can deliver meals. More details about CACFP meal delivery can be found in the DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a>. (04/15/20)</li> <li>State agency must approve all locations for distributions of meals. (04/15/20)</li> <li>All sponsoring organization that do not participate in SFSP for a summer season are required to attend the day new sponsor training to resume participation. DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a> (04/22/20)</li> <li>CACFP sites, open or closed, can implement the non-congregate and meal time waivers. DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a> (04/24/20)</li> <li>CACFP state agencies and sponsoring organization can add new sites, but must complete all aspects of the application and approval process. DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a> (04/24/20)</li> </ul>	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL created a <a href="#">Nutrition Services Emergency Feeding Vendor Resource List</a>. (05/6/20)</li> </ul>	
Issue emergency waivers for Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL issued (04/08/20 )the following <a href="#">policy waivers</a>, <a href="#">updated 05/06/20</a>, for CAPS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency CAPS Payment from 03/16/20 through <a href="#">05/22/20</a>.</li> <li>Emergency CAPS State-Approved Activity from 03/16/20 through <a href="#">05/22/20</a>.</li> <li>Temporary Suspension of Provider Rate Changes from 03/16/20 through <a href="#">05/22/20</a>.</li> <li>Essential Services Workforce Priority Group from 04/01/20 through TBD.</li> <li>Temporary Suspension of Family Signatures on CAPS Arrival/Departure Records from 04/08/20 through <a href="#">05/22/20</a>.</li> <li>Temporary Suspension of Disallowing Billing for CAPS and Another State of Federal Program during Same Service Period from 04/08/20 through <a href="#">05/22/20</a>. (05/06/20)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
DECAL distribute clear and consistent health and safety guidance to child care providers	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL Commissioner <a href="#">acknowledges provider’s expertise</a> in practicing and teaching health and hygiene that are in accordance with DPH and CDC guidelines. (03/20/20)</li> <li>DECAL provides <a href="#">guidance</a> on health and safety protocol for child care providers. (03/25/20)</li> <li>DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a> provides child care specific CDC guidance.</li> <li>DECAL <a href="#">states</a> providers should follow all licensing regulations and public health department guidance.</li> <li>Governor Kemp issued an <a href="#">EO</a> (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 <a href="#">DECAL</a>. (04/27/20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WA: <a href="#">health and safety guidance for arrival, departure, play areas, meal time, and hygiene practices</a></li> <li>IA: guidance for <a href="#">health hygiene practices</a></li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DECAL <a href="#">released</a> a guidance check-list for child care operations that ensure compliance with the 04/23/20 EO.</li> <li>• DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a> provided a list of resources for PPE vendors. (05/04/20)</li> </ul>	
Create Essential Services Workforce	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DECAL has established a new priority group, <a href="#">Essential Services Workforce</a>, for Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). (04/01/20)</li> <li>• Essential Services Workforce <a href="#">includes</a>:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Law enforcement, public safety, and first responder personnel;</li> <li>○ Medical personnel who provide direct care to patients and the personnel who support direct care to patients;</li> <li>○ Pharmacy personnel; and</li> <li>○ Child care personnel.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Essential Services Workforce Tier 2 <a href="#">includes</a>:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food and grocery store personnel;</li> <li>○ Convenience store personnel;</li> <li>○ Pharmacy personnel not included in Tier 1;</li> <li>○ Food and grocery manufacturing;</li> <li>○ Food processing;</li> <li>○ Farming and food production;</li> <li>○ Food and grocery storage, distribution, or transit;</li> <li>○ Food and grocery delivery; and</li> <li>○ Restaurant food preparation, service, or delivery. (04/30/20)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• DECAL has a <a href="#">three-tier definition</a> 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)</li> <li>• The CAPS scholarship application for Essential Service Workforce Priority Group can be found <a href="#">here</a>. (04/16/20)</li> </ul>	

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Ensure adequate funding to support child care and afterschool program sustainability	Office of the Administration for Children and Families, <a href="#">CCDF</a> (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 <a href="#">Statewide Disaster Plan</a> for child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 <a href="#">FAQ</a>)</li> <li>DECAL will make Georgia Pre-K payments for April and May based on April roster. (DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a>)</li> <li>DECAL will make CAPS payments through service week <a href="#">04/10/20</a>, if the child has attended at least once since 03/01/20. (DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a>)</li> <li>DECAL will continue <a href="#">to re-evaluate</a> CAPS payment policy on a 2-week time frame.</li> <li>DECAL is awaiting guidance on funds utilization authorized by <a href="#">The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act</a> 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 <a href="#">FAQ</a>) (04/14/20)</li> <li>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 <a href="#">Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities (STABLE)</a> payments.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL hosted a provider <a href="#">webinar</a> for general updates and STABLE Q&amp;A.</li> <li>STABLE grant application can be found <a href="#">here</a>. It can be accessed through 05/15/20. (05/07/20)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning <a href="#">received</a> 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) <a href="#">Grant is open for applications.</a> (04/28/20)</li> </ul>	

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Suspend quality rated observations	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL has suspended quality rated observations until 06/30/20. (DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a>) (04/09/20)</li> <li>DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a> provides detailed updated information on quality rated. (04/28/20)</li> </ul>	
Extend CAPS Quality Rated 2020 deadline	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">DECAL FAQ</a> 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)</li> </ul>	
Clarify work authorization papers are not needed for travel during <a href="#">shelter-in-place order</a>	N/A	Governor statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governor Kemp issued a <a href="#">statement</a> saying that the shelter-in-place order issued on <a href="#">04/02/20</a> does not require any worker to carry authorization letters to be on Georgia roads. (04/08/20)</li> </ul>	
<p>Assist families impacted by COVID-19 in accessing child care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect parents with operating child care providers</li> <li>Provide up to date resources and information regarding child care changes</li> </ul>	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL is <a href="#">encouraging families</a> to visit <a href="#">www.qualityrated.org</a> or call 1-477-ALL-GA-KIDS (Call Center). (03/20/20)</li> <li>DECAL is assisting families in child care searches through the Call Center. (03/20/20)</li> <li>Governor Kemp, DECAL, and YMCA Metro Atlanta created a partnership to <a href="#">dedicate child care sites for medical workers</a>. (03/18/20)</li> <li>YMCA Metro Atlanta has shared their critical child care model with other YMCAs; each site has deciding authority.</li> <li>DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a> asks providers to report closures immediately.</li> <li>DECAL is contacting providers that have not reflected their operation hour information on KOALA.</li> <li>DECAL is <a href="#">updating</a>, daily, child care sites closing and operating.</li> <li>Current updates can be found on DECAL social media and <a href="#">website</a>.</li> </ul>	

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Provide <a href="#">enhanced child care referrals</a>	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL is assisting all families in child care searches through the Call Center. (03/20/20)</li> <li>Note: An enhanced referral occurs when CCR&amp;R coordinates with child care programs to confirm vacancies before the referral is offered to the parent.</li> </ul>	
Continue CAPS payments, regardless of closures	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL will make CAPS payments through service week <a href="#">04/10/20</a>, if the child has attended at least once since 03/01/20. (DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a>)</li> <li>DECAL will continue to <a href="#">re-evaluate</a> CAPS payment policy on a 2-week time span.</li> </ul>	
Utilize Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support and resources to providers</li> <li>Assist providers in meeting staffing needs</li> </ul>	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 4 GA CCR&amp;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"> <li><a href="#">Quality Care for Children</a></li> <li><a href="#">Albany State University</a></li> <li><a href="#">Augusta University/ Leap Early Learning Partners</a></li> <li><a href="#">Savannah Technical College</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>DECAL is working with CCR&amp;R and the Call Center to address available child care seats for COVID-19 responders.</li> </ul>	
Enhance <a href="#">KOALA</a> for provider closure updates	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KOALA enhancement complete and allows providers to report operations and closures. (DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a>)</li> <li>DECAL is contacting providers that have not reflected their operation hour information.</li> </ul>	

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Allow Exempt Summer Programs to provide services for school age children		DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a> allows exempt day camp programs to operate as during any other school break – but will not allow any added flexibilities to the exemption process.</li> </ul>	
Ensure all child care programs to utilize KOALA to report the following within 48 hours of occurrence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partial or full closures</li> <li>Open seats by age group</li> </ul>	N/A	DECAL guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a> asks providers to report closures immediately.</li> <li>DECAL is <a href="#">updating</a>, daily, child care sites closing and operating.</li> <li>Current updates can be found on DECAL social media and <a href="#">website</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MA: require report of closure <a href="#">within 24 hours</a></li> <li>IL: requesting sites to <a href="#">report closure</a></li> <li>PA: <a href="#">report all closures</a></li> </ul>
Address regulations for child care providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family/guardian access to facility</li> <li>Access front door of facility and classrooms</li> <li>Immunization requirements</li> <li>Field trips</li> <li>CPR and First Aid Certification</li> </ul>	N/A	EO	Governor Kemp released an <a href="#">Executive Order</a> (03/24/20) addressing revised regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providers to restrict family/guardian access to facility.</li> <li>Providers to limit access to front door of facility and classrooms.</li> <li>Suspend immunization requirements as a result of limited health care sector capacity.</li> <li>Suspend field trips.</li> <li>Child Care Centers must have 1 staff member and 1 administrator with a CPR and First Aid Certification on premises.</li> </ul> DECAL provides <a href="#">guidance</a> on health and safety protocol for child care providers. (03/25/20)	

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<p><b>Apply for requirement waivers for CACFP to address food access</b></p>	<p>United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) (03/20/20) issued nationwide waivers:</p> <p><a href="#">60-Day Reporting Requirement</a></p> <p><a href="#">Non-Congregate Meals</a></p> <p><a href="#">Meal time</a></p> <p><a href="#">Activity Requirement</a></p> <p><a href="#">Meal Pick Up</a></p> <p><a href="#">Meal Pattern</a></p> <p><a href="#">On-Site Monitor</a></p>	<p>DECAL submit waiver request to USDA, FNS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECAL (<a href="#">FAQ</a>) will participate in the following nationwide waivers during the public health emergency for CACFP programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Nationwide CACFP State Agency Monitoring (Annual Review) Waiver</a>: waives the requirement to complete CACFP monitoring on site. (04/24/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide 60 Day Reporting Requirement Waiver</a>: waives the 60-day reimbursement claims deadline. This waiver applies for claims covering operations for January and February 2020. (04/01/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver</a>: programs are not required to meet all meal pattern requirements. (03/25/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Onsite Monitoring Waiver</a>: 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 <a href="#">FAQ</a>. (03/27/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Meal Pick Up Waiver</a>: program can distribute meals to parents/guardians. (03/25/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver</a>: meals do not have to be served in a congregate setting or consumed on site. (03/20/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Meal Service Times Waiver</a>: sites are not required to follow meal service time requirements. Allows CACFP sponsors to align meal times w/ available community programs and services. (03/20/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide No Activity Requirement for Afterschool CACFP</a>: No enrichment or educational activity needed during At-Risk-After-School programs. (03/20/20)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



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Apply for requirement waivers for SFSP to address food access	<p>USDA, FNS issued nationwide waivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">60-Day Reporting Requirement</a></li> <li><a href="#">Non-Congregate Meals</a></li> <li><a href="#">Meal time</a></li> <li><a href="#">Activity Requirement</a></li> <li><a href="#">Meal Pick Up</a></li> <li><a href="#">Meal Pattern</a></li> <li><a href="#">On-Site Monitor</a></li> </ul> <p>USDA, FNS issued SFSP and SSO meal delivery <a href="#">guidance</a></p>	DECAL submit waiver request to USDA, FNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DECAL submitted the following SFSP waiver:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Allow</a> 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)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• DECAL (<a href="#">FAQ</a>) will participate in the following nationwide waivers during the public health emergency for SFSP programs:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Extension of Unanticipated School Closures Waiver</a>: delays transition from National School Lunch Program to Seamless Summer Option and SFSP. (04/27/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Food Service Management Contract Waiver</a>: waives contract duration, use emergency noncompetitive procurement for a one-year extension. (04/24/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide 60 Day Reporting Requirement Waiver</a>: waives the 60-day reimbursement claims deadline. This waiver applies for claims covering operations for January and February 2020. (04/01/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver</a>: programs are not required to meet all meal pattern requirements. DECAL provides <a href="#">guidance</a> for menu alternatives. (03/25/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Onsite Monitoring Waiver</a>: postpone requiring SFSP onsite visits. Additional details can be found in the DECAL <a href="#">FAQ</a>. (03/27/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Meal Pick Up Waiver</a>: program can distribute meals to parents/guardians. (03/25/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver</a>: meals do not have to be served in a congregate setting or consumed on site. (03/20/20)</li> <li><a href="#">Nationwide Meal Service Times Waiver</a>: allows SFSP sponsors to align meal times w/ available community programs and services. (03/20/20)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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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
<p><b>Allow flexibility for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program (afterschool programming)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow programs to conduct virtual or other at-home programming</li> <li>• Continue payments to staff during closure</li> <li>• Create flexibility in federal and state reporting requirements</li> <li>• Create flexibility in makeup days required</li> <li>• Allow expansion of regularly scheduled program hours</li> <li>• Provide clarification on detailed work logs</li> <li>• Create flexibility in attendance requirements</li> <li>• Allow modification of virtual programming hours</li> <li>• Provide guidance on summer programming</li> <li>• Allow carryover of all unexpended FY20 funds into FY21</li> </ul>	N/A	GaDOE guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GaDOE <a href="#">Federal Program FAQ</a> (3/25/20): All 21<sup>st</sup> 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) GaDOE lays out conditions and virtual activities for which 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC staff can be paid. 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) 21st CCLC programs are encouraged to schedule make-up days but GaDOE has not established a requirement. GaDOE lays out guidance for additional programming hours. GaDOE states lessons plans can be used to supplement time documentation not detailed work logs. (04/01/20) 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 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC subgrantees. (04/22/20) GaDOE states subgrantees may modify the number of hours provided to students engaged in virtual programming. (04/22/20) GaDOE has not established guidance for onsite summer programming but encourages subgrantees to plan for virtual summer learning activities. (04/22/20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">OH</a>: provides guidance on operational decisions, allowable work for pay, virtual programming, and expands the grant period</li> <li>• <a href="#">CT</a>: allowing staff to be paid</li> <li>• <a href="#">MI</a>: continues to pay staff and will adjust the number of hours required to operate</li> <li>• <a href="#">MO</a>: outlines allowable work for pay</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarify details about professional development sessions</li> </ul>			<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>	
<p><b>Ensure children have safe access to meals otherwise provided by the school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to food is becoming more of a challenge for families as incomes diminish and increased exposure risks in food distribution</li> </ul>	<p>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</p>	<p>GaDOE waiver; local school district application</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> <li>A CARES Act grant for GaDOE/local schools of about \$400 million will be available for FY21 and be available for food donations, mental health services, nurses, and more.</li> <li>GaDOE <a href="#">applied</a> for a waiver for meal service flexibility. (03/13/20)</li> <li>All 181 school district applications been approved and are feeding families. (03/19/20)</li> <li>A <a href="#">list of student meal pick-up info by local district</a> has been compiled by GPB.</li> <li>DFCS and GaDOE are <a href="#">working together</a> on a possible move to give food stamps to families whose children typically receive free or reduced-price meals at school.</li> <li>DOE is in communication with school districts about developing protocols to protect grandparent caregivers who are coming to pick up meals are food distribution sites in line with public health guidelines. (DFCS Communications, 03/30/20)</li> <li>Dougherty County, a hotspot of COVID-19 with nearly 1,000 cases, <a href="#">suspended food delivery temporarily</a> to protect the safety of food</li> </ul>	

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			deliveries after a school nutrition worker tested positive for the coronavirus. More than 80% of the county’s students are economically disadvantaged. (04/06/20)	
<p><b>Provide digital learning (a/k/a distance instruction) resources on par with in-person classroom curriculum, to the greatest extent possible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider that education must be provided equitably (e.g. internet access may be a barrier for some)</li> <li>Support teachers in learning how to educate in this new way</li> </ul>	N/A	GaDOE administrative policy and practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> <li>Families who need internet service can go to <a href="#">EveryoneOn.org</a> where they can see offers from providers.</li> <li>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 <a href="mailto:schoolsafety@doe.k12.ga.us">schoolsafety@doe.k12.ga.us</a> and they can assist.</li> <li>If parents are being reported for educational neglect during the crisis, alert GaDOE at <a href="mailto:schoolsafety@doe.k12.ga.us">schoolsafety@doe.k12.ga.us</a> and they can look into the situations.</li> <li>A map of public WiFi is <a href="#">available here</a>.</li> <li>GaDOE is partnering with the Georgia Foundation for Public Education &amp; Verizon to donate digital devices, preloaded with software and books. An estimated 660,000 devices are needed.</li> <li>Tax-deductible donations to help get digital devices into students’ hands can be made at <a href="http://www.gfpe.org/invest">www.gfpe.org/invest</a>.</li> <li>GaDOE’s Office of Teaching and Learning <a href="#">offers digital learning planning resources</a>.</li> <li>More digital learning resources are available from <a href="#">Get Georgia Reading</a>.</li> <li><a href="#">Amerigroup has worked with DFCS</a> to provide iPads to some children in foster care to ensure their continued access to online education.</li> </ul>	

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**COVID-19 Policy Response: Afterschool**

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Potential Policy and Practice Changes	Supporting Federal Policy	Change Mechanism	Georgia Action To Date	Other State Action / Population
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Jigsaw Interactive</a> is stepping up to help schools by providing access to virtual classroom software, at no cost, from now through the end of the school year. (Interested schools can call 877-571-0004 (x2285) / email <a href="mailto:customerassist@jigsawinteractive.com">customerassist@jigsawinteractive.com</a>.)</li> <li>GaDOE and GPB have launched the <a href="#">Georgia Home Classroom initiative</a>, an instructional TV broadcast, with a library of digital learning resources (currently PK-5; middle and high school to come).</li> <li>GaDOE has a <a href="#">list of training opportunities and resources for educators</a> to learn how to teach virtually.</li> </ul>	
<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"> <li><a href="#">More than 40,000 students were experiencing homelessness</a> in Georgia before the pandemic</li> <li><a href="#">According to GaDOE</a>, schools can seek support of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (<a href="#">DCA</a>), which provides Emergency Solutions Grants (<a href="#">ESG</a>) funds to for housing needs</li> </ul>	N/A	GaDOE directive; school district and school action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>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)</b></li> <li>Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) <a href="#">issued guidance</a> 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)</li> <li><a href="#">Title I, Part A funds</a> 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)</li> <li>Title I, Part A funds can also be used for <a href="#">outreach services</a> to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences. (03/26/20)</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Provide appropriate support and accommodations to students experiencing homelessness to avoid academic setbacks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current need for internet access and digital devices for distance learning creates additional barriers to learning and academic success for economically disadvantaged students</li> </ul>	N/A	GaDOE directive; school district and school action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> <li>GaDOE <a href="#">guidance</a> recommends that schools provide alternatives for families lacking internet access. <a href="#">See a full checklist of accommodations here.</a> (03/26/20)</li> <li>GaDOE <a href="#">guidance</a> 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)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Provide up-to-date information on school closures and related resources</b> (and openings, when the time comes)</p>	N/A	GaDOE communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Executive Order</a> (04/01/20): All schools currently closed through the end of the school year.</li> <li>GaDOE provides up-to-date info on school closures at <a href="https://www.georgiainsights.com/georgia-school-closures.html">https://www.georgiainsights.com/georgia-school-closures.html</a>.</li> <li><a href="#">The Georgia Insights website</a> has a multitude of resources on school closures, distance learning, equity in education, meal donations, testing, and more.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Suspend standardized testing</b></p> <p>Reduce the impact of SAT/ACT cancellations on graduating seniors</p>	<p><a href="#">Letter from Secretary DeVos</a> (03/20/20): US DOE accepting waivers on assessment and accountability requirements,</p>	DOE waiver; GaDOE administrative policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessments have been cancelled. GaDOE <a href="#">issued a Q&amp;A</a> on the cancellation and its impact. (03/27/20)</li> <li>Georgia has <a href="#">received formal approval</a> 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)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least <a href="#">34 states</a> have sought a waiver from US DOE to suspend testing</li> </ul>

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	relaxing state testing requirements		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State assessment and accountability requirements <a href="#">have been reduced</a> as well. (04/07/20)</li> </ul> <p><u>SAT/ACT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March and May SAT tests have been <a href="#">cancelled</a>. The April ACT test has been <a href="#">postponed</a> to June.</li> <li><a href="#">Many colleges</a> have made SAT/ACT scores an optional application component, and/or have <a href="#">extended deadlines</a>.</li> </ul>	