

Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

May 14, 2020



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**

BRIGHT FROM THE START

DECAL May 14 Board Meeting: Webinar 101

- For Board Members
 - Board meeting is audio only.
 - You are able to mute and unmute yourselves.
 - If you experience any sound or technology issues, type note in chat box, and a DECAL staff member will assist you.
- For General Public
 - You will remain muted.
 - The agenda does not include a Q&A session; this is standard for board meetings.
 - The agenda does include a public comment period. Public may type comments in the chat box. Public comments will be shared with the Board.
 - Minutes will be posted at a later date. Board Summary will be posted within seven business days.
 - PowerPoint presentation will also be posted.
- Helpful Hints from Shawnell Johnson



Board Meeting Welcome

Susan Harper, Board Chair



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Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve 5-14-20 agenda
- Approve 2-20-20 minutes



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Commissioner Updates

Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner



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Organization

- **COVID-19 Responses and Updates**
 - Commissioner Overview
 - Timeline and DECAL Response Strategies
 - STABLE Grants
 - Division Updates
 - Nutrition
 - Childcare and Parent Services
 - Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports
 - Child Care Services
 - Quality Innovations and Partnerships
- **Budget Update**



COVID-19: DECAL Responses



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Georgia COVID-19 Key Dates

- February 26, 2020:** Georgia confirmed first COVID-19 case
- March 12, 2020:** Governor Kemp mandates telework where possible
- March 13, 2020:** **Declaration of Public Health Emergency (extended to June 12, 2020)**
- March 16, 2020:** Closing of public schools (updated 3/26 and 4/1)
- March 24, 2020:** Reduced restrictions for CCLC and FCCLH
- March 25, 2020** DECAL physical offices closed
- April 2, 2020:** **Shelter in Place Order**
- April 30, 2020:** Governor Kemp extended Public Health Emergency until June 12, 2020
- April 23, 2020** Governor Kemp order limiting group size and requiring compliance with CDC guidelines
- May 14, 2020** **Governor Kemp order increasing group size and requiring continued compliance with CDC guidelines**



Response Strategies

All Hands-On Deck

- Initial DECAL “War Room”
- Continued daily exec team briefings

Communication

- Four provider webinars
- Weekly stakeholder information calls
- Updated F.A.Q.’s
- Updated webpage
- DECAL Download

Policy Revisions and Guidance

- CCS, CAPS, Pre-K



Response Strategies cont.

At Home Resources for Providers and Families

- Georgia Pre-K At Home
- Toddler Time
- Chat About Children
- Virtual professional development

Data

- Daily internal report
- On-going provider reminders
- Development of research agenda



DECAL COVID-19 Webpage

<http://decals.ga.gov/BFTS/Covid19.aspx>



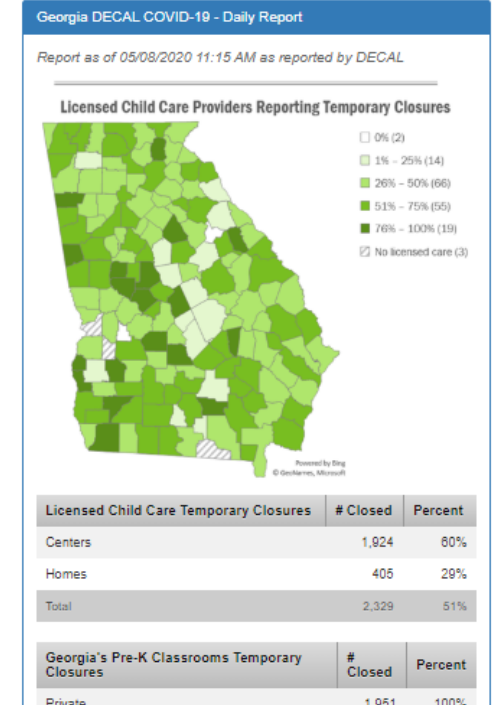
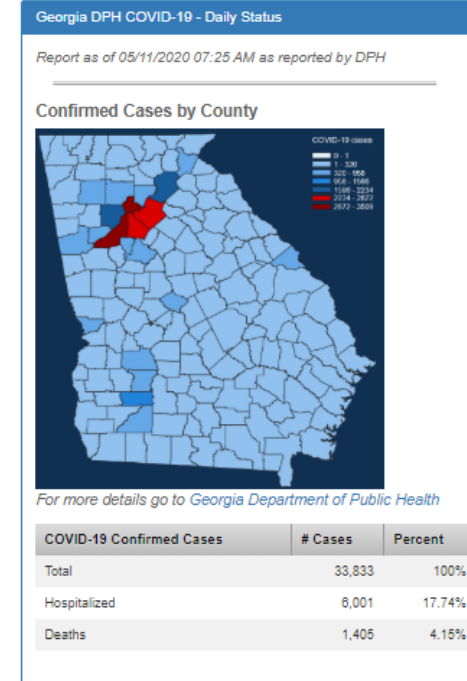
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Here at the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, our top priority is always the health and safety of all children, their families, and the child care workforce. As we continue to respond to COVID-19 Coronavirus in Georgia, we will post all of our communications on this important issue here. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through the many questions and issues related to this unprecedented public health emergency. If you need more information, please e-mail childcareservices@decals.ga.gov.

For the latest updates, please follow these sites: [Governor's Office](#), [GA Department of Public Health](#), and [CDC](#).

And remember best practices:

- Stay home if you are sick!
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Get a flu shot!
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Frequently Asked Questions Updated Daily

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/BFTS/Covid19.aspx>



Frequently Asked Questions Related to Covid-19/Coronavirus (Revised 5-8-20; most recent Q&A's or updated answers in red)

This document is a compilation of questions that DECAL has received from child care providers, families, policy makers, and the public relating to the impact of COVID-19.

*The **most recent questions** and answers are in **red** font at the beginning of this document. For additional information, **scroll through** the questions and answers on **the following pages** organized by DECAL programs.*

Visit this webpage often because this document will be updated regularly as additional questions are submitted.

No new questions or updated/revised answers were submitted for today, May 8, 2020. Please check back for additional questions/answers/information.

SPECIAL NOTE: Questions and answers from yesterday regarding the STABLE Grants for child care providers are found on the following pages.

Governor Brian Kemp's Executive Orders Related to COVID-19

On April 23, 2020, Governor Brian P. Kemp issued an Executive Order titled *Reviving A Healthy Georgia*, effective May 1, 2020, at 12:00 a.m. through May 13, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Among other instructions, this Executive Order addresses how licensed child care learning centers and family child care learning homes will operate under Section VII Education and Children. The complete Executive Order can be found at: <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>.

On April 8, 2020, Governor Kemp signed an executive order **extending Georgia's public health state of emergency** through **May 13, 2020** and extending the **statewide shelter in place order** through **April 30, 2020**. All provisions of the statewide shelter in place order remain in effect.

On April 2, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp issued an Executive Order requiring Georgians to shelter-in-place to stop the spread of COVID-19. The Executive Order can be found at: <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>.

On March 26, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp issued an Executive Order closing public elementary and secondary schools for in-person instruction through April 24, 2020. The Executive Order can be found at: <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>.

At noon on March 24, 2020, an Executive Order issued by Governor Brian Kemp went into effect. The order, in effect through April 6, 2020, bans gatherings of more than 10 people unless they can always maintain spacing of at least six feet between people. The order does not distinguish between staff, children, and volunteers; any individual present is counted as part of the 10. The Executive Order can be found at: <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>.

Some answers to these Frequently Asked Questions have been revised in light of the Governor's Executive Orders.

Stay informed with website and social media platforms!



/brightfromthestart



/brightfromthestart



/gadep-tear-ly-care



/brightfromthestart

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/>



search dec.al.ga.gov

Agency Programs Families Teachers Providers Contact Us



- Find Child Care
- Find Georgia's Pre-K
- Find a Meal Site
- Career Opportunities
- Criminal Records Check
- License Fee Payments
- FAQ
- QUALITY RATED Child Care
- Quick Links
- CACDS



DECAL Daily Data Report

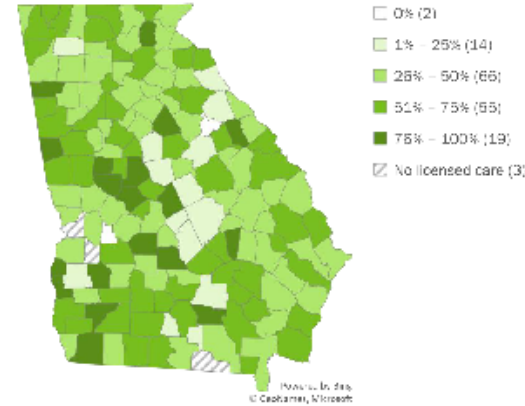
- Georgia Map of Temporary Closures
- Chart of Closures by CCLC and FCCLH
- Georgia's Pre-K Temporary Closures
- Child Care Applications Received
- Nutrition Program Emergency Feeding
- ALLGAKIDS Calls
- Comprehensive Background Checks
- CAPS Workload

Georgia Child Care & COVID-19: DECAL Daily Report

Report generated on 5/8/2020 at 11:16 AM



Licensed Providers Reporting Temporary Closures



Nutrition Program Emergency Feeding

Sites	449
Sponsors	40
Counties	51

ALL-GA-KIDS Calls

COVID Related	16
Enhanced Referrals	5
Other Parent Referrals	0
Employer Inquiries	0
Other	11
Non-COVID	8
Total	24

Licensed Providers Reporting Temporary Closures

Provider Type	# Closed	% Closed
CCLC	1,924	60%
FCCLH	405	29%
Total	2,329	51%

154 counties with temporary closures

Georgia's Pre-K Classrooms Temporary Closures

Provider Type	# Closed	% Closed
Private	1,951	100%
Public	1,907	100%
Total	3,858	100%

Child Care Applications Received

4/27 to 5/1

Emergency Licensing	0
Non-Emergency Licensing	9
Emergency Exempt	0
Non-Emergency Exempt	18

Comprehensive Background Checks

GBI Reports Received	70
New Applications	73

CAPS Workload

Applications Received	196
Intake Tasks Completed	284
Changes Received	167
Changes Completed	75
Calls Received	336
Outgoing Calls	969
April Renewals Completed ¹	92%

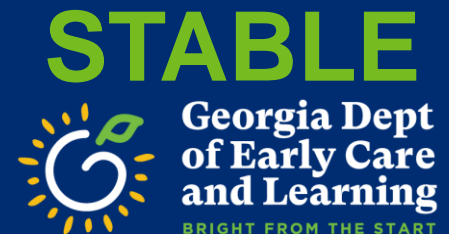
(* reported weekly)



STABLE: Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities

Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs

Woody Dover, Enterprise Project Management Director



CARES Funds, Federal Guidance, & DECAL's Approach

- Georgia received roughly \$144 million.
- Federal guidance included:
 - Payments to child care programs to account for lost revenue to remain open or re-open
 - Assistance for costs related to cleaning and sanitation
 - Financial assistance for child care for Essential Workers
- What we've heard from providers and stakeholders:

*Our child care community needs support **as quickly as possible.***



Developing STABLE

1. Identified goals:
 - Easy for providers to apply
 - Funds awarded quickly
 - Rates based on current data and research
2. Internal team developed a plan around these goals
3. Plan approved by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
4. Plan reviewed by small group of providers and stakeholders



What is STABLE?

Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities

- One-time payment for licensed child care learning centers and family child care learning homes
- Apply via DECAL KOALA May 1-15
- Payments issued by Maximus Inc. within an estimated 10 business days



STABLE: The Details

- Total payment amount based on February attendance information
- Base rate per child is based on cost for a two year old at a 2-star Quality Rated provider in metro Atlanta and depends on operating status (open vs. temporarily closed) on a specified date. Rate then varies by current funding:
 - Children in Georgia's Pre-K (lower rate)
 - Children with CAPS scholarships (lower rate)
 - Children in Head Start or Early Head Start (not included in payment)
- Maximum payment amount per licensed location
- Simple budget allocation plan required



Rate Chart

<u>Operating Status</u>	<u>Base Rate</u>	<u>CAPS Rate</u>	<u>Pre-K Rate</u>
Open	\$240	\$120	\$79
Temporarily Closed	\$180	\$90	\$59

Rate per child attending in February

Nutrition Services

Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance & Administration

Emergency Feeding Stats

Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children

- DECAL began approving Sponsors in mid-March
- 40 Approved Sponsors
- 444 Approved Sites
- Over 50 Counties Served
- 1.2 Million Meals Served (to date)



For more info, text "SUMMER MEALS"
to 97779 | Decal.Ga.gov



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



CAPS

Elisabetta Kasfir, Deputy Commissioner for Childcare and Parent Services



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Emergency CAPS Policy Waivers

- **Emergency Payment Policy**

- Payment based on enrollment vs. attendance for open and closed providers
- Providers able to bill on active scholarship with the highest rate
- Temporary suspension of arrival and departure records
- Temporary suspension of policies disallowing billing for CAPS and another state or federal program during the same service period
- Temporary suspension of processing provider rate changes

- **Emergency Eligibility Policy**

- State-approved activity requirement waived for affected families



Added New CAPS Priority Group

- **Essential Services Workforce Priority Group**

- Tier 1 opened April 1st
 - Medical, pharmacy, child care personnel, and first responders
- Tier 2 opened May 1st
 - Individuals who work in the food and grocery supply chain
- 500 slots
- Complete eligibility requirements posted on www.caps.decal.ga.gov

Online referrals for Essential Services Workforce

www.QualityRated.org



Essential Services Workforce Status

2,133

Essential Service Workforce Referrals Received

42%

of referrals were received since Tier 2 opened 5/1/20

29%

of all referrals have been dispositioned

46

families are being served under the ESW Priority Group

73

children are being served under the ESW Priority Group

45

families are being served under other priority groups

427

ESW Slots remain



Child Care Services

Pam Stevens, Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services



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CCS: Pandemic Response Requirements

Child Care Learning Centers

- Because child care cannot maintain six feet of distance between people at all times, group sizes must be no more than 10 people, including staff.
- Current ratios for infants (1:6) and toddlers (1:8) must be maintained.

Family Child Care Learning Homes

- Each FCCLH must ensure that no more than 10 individuals are present at a FCCLH at one time. Includes staff, residents of the home, family members, and enrolled children, regardless of pay status.
- FCCLH may have no more than six children for pay present at any given time, and ratios must be maintained.



CCS: Pandemic Response Requirements

- **Enhanced sanitation requirements**
- **Rule suspensions in whole or in part**
 - Options for programs to restrict access
 - Modified sign-in/sign-out procedures
 - Options to offer families temporary relief from immunization requirements
 - Suspension of field trips
 - Suspension of communal meals
 - Reduction of staff needing CPR training



CCS Pandemic Response

Supports

- Consultant check-ins
- Provider checklist
- Open/Closed status feature in KOALA
- Virtual monitoring
 - Phase 1: The Administrative Process
 - Phase 2: Virtual Visits



CCS: What's Next

- **Child care is reopening.**
 - Currently 2,082 open programs
 - Currently 45% open programs
- **May 14, 2020 Executive Order**
 - Group size increases from 10 to 20 people per classroom



Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports

Susan Adams, Deputy Commissioner for Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports



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Impact on Georgia's Pre-K



- All Georgia's Pre-K programs officially closed for the school year on April 6, 2020.
 - DECAL made Georgia's Pre-K payments as scheduled.
 - Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teachers are required to be paid during closure.
 - If a program has enrolled Georgia's Pre-K children who need care, then Pre-K funds should be used to pay for their care during the 6½ hour instructional day until the end of the school year.
- An Addendum to the Operating Guidelines is posted online.
 - Deadline for expending 2019-2020 Pre-K funds has been extended to September 30, 2020.



Summer Transition Program Update

- Reduced from 6 weeks to 4 weeks between June 15 – July 30
- Follow current COVID-19 guidelines
- Virtual training, coaching and monitoring





Wednesday, April 1st

Music and Movement

[Spring is Here](#) by The Learning Station

Phonological Awareness

Say all the words you can think of that rhyme with SPRING
(bring, ring, thing, etc.)

Literacy

Story Time: [Bear's New Friend](#)

Bear takes a walk in the woods with his friends and discovers a very shy owl. What will he do?

Talk with your child about how you make new friends.

Math

Sort your stuffed animals (or hot wheels cars, dolls...) by color.
Can you sort them another way? (size, type)

Outside Science

Take a nature walk outside and look for signs of spring.
Talk about what you see. How do things move, grow, change?
Make a list with your family of things you saw on your walk.



Toddler Time at Home

Each week we will have a new theme and new activities every Monday morning

decal.ga.gov/toddlerstime



<p><i>On the Move</i></p>	<p><u>Going to Visit Family Obstacle Course</u></p> <p>Make way to visit family by going over the river and through the woods!</p>	<p><u>Build Your Family</u></p> <p>Construct your strong family unit, in a literal sense, using blocks or boxes.</p>	<p><u>Teacher Appreciation Parade</u></p> <p>Help celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week by honoring your child's favorite teacher with a parade!</p>
<p><i>Adventures</i></p>	<p><u>Family Color Hunt</u></p> <p>Join Ms. Caitie as she searches for colors outdoors!</p>	<p><u>A Day at the Beach</u></p> <p>Gather all your beach gear as you learn about the beach and pretend</p>	<p><u>Exploring Emotions</u></p> <p>Join Elmo and sing about your feelings- especially your feelings</p>



Family Resources



*Chat About
Children:
An Educational
Series for Families*

Release Date	Episodes
April 23rd	Monitoring Development with <i>Learn the Signs. Act Early.</i>
April 30th	My Daily Routine: Supporting Security and Predictability Through the Use of Schedules
May 14th	Creating Connections: Building Your Young Child's Brain
May 28th	Play with Me! Engaging Children
June 11	From Talking to Reading: How Early Language Builds Literacy
June 25th	The Power of Choice

*Rosie Practices
Social Distancing*



Program Resources



Georgia Dept
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Join us!

SEEDS for Success Webinar Series

**Webinar 2:
"MOVE-ing Forward with
Transitions"**

Two offerings available on April 9th or 15th at
1:00pm



Join us for
"Understanding
Temperament
with Infant/Toddlers"
May 5 at 1 pm

Virtual Field Trips



DECAL
Download 

New Episodes Every Wednesday!



This Week's Guest
Allison O'Hara
Inclusion and Behavior Support Program Director



Quality Innovations and Partnerships

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships



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Quality Rated

- Extended 2020 Goal deadline until at least July 1, 2021.
- Participated in Environment Rating Scales overviews and trainings, developed post COVID-19 policies, created orientation materials, and worked on the probationary and provisional QR statuses.
- Suspended Quality Rated observations until at least June 30, 2020.
 - Revised training requirements
 - Allowed providers who were scheduled to be rerated in 2020 opportunity to extend.
 - Created rating opportunities for providers who were in the final rating stages when the COVID-19 public health emergency began.
 - Identifying new rating cohorts.



Community Outreach and Partnerships

- Community coordinators created community engagement networks
 - Based on work initiated through Head Start State Collaboration Director and Head Start sites.
- Worked with Monique Reynolds from Quality Care for Children (QCC) to create Business Support Webinars for providers. More than 1,000 attended.
- Revamped the statewide call center report to detail use of qualityrated.org and web-based referrals.



Early Head Start

- Continued to pay providers for Early Head Start services
- Submitted Non-Competitive Continuation Application (April 1)
- With QCC support, DECAL provided resources and worked with all child care partners to ensure family engagement and support continued.



DECAL
EARLY HEAD START
PARTNERSHIP

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV



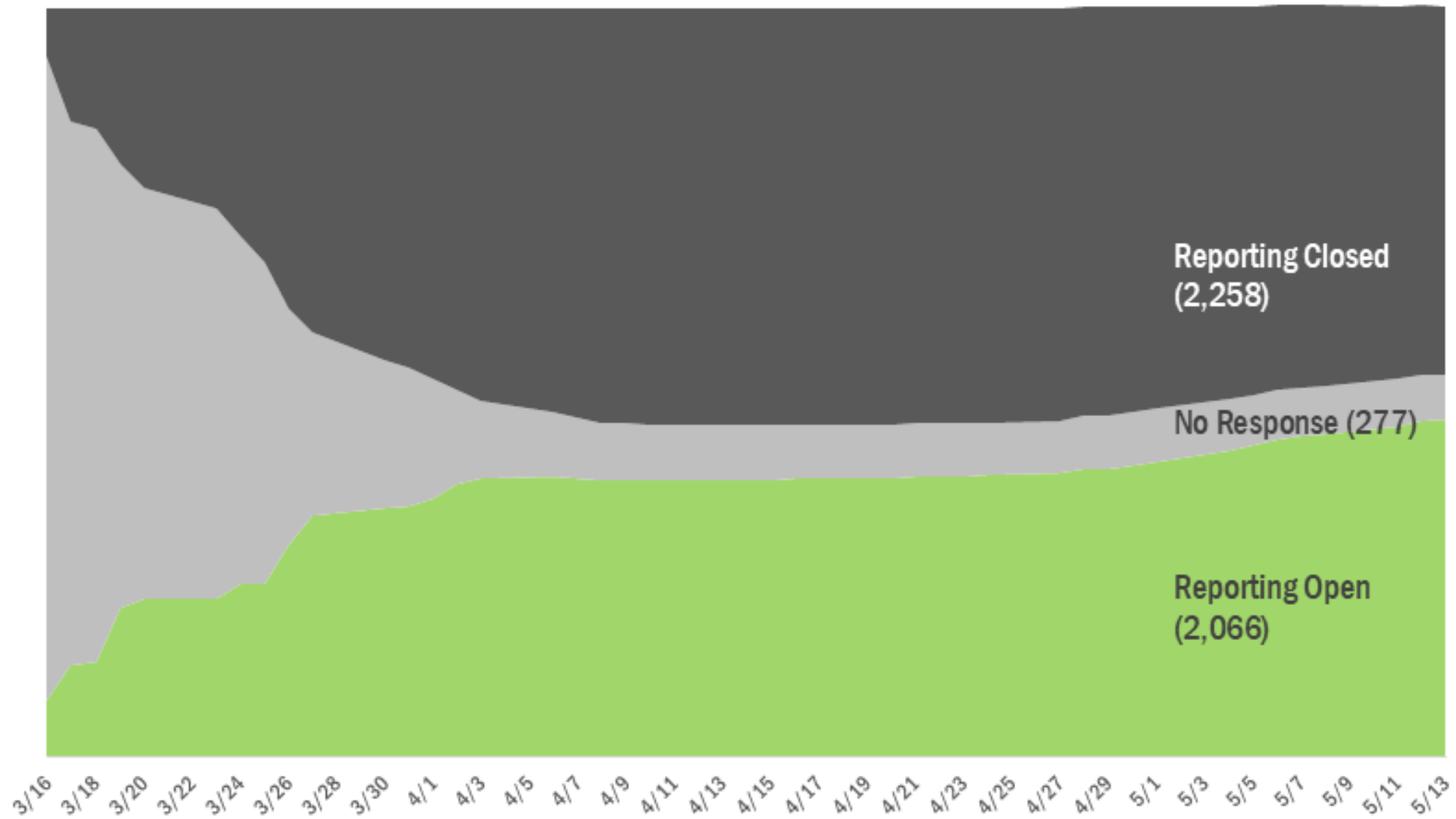
Research and Policy Analysis

- Worked across the Department to support data needs and a variety of projects
- Created internal data report
- “Stepped up” to serve the Department wherever needed

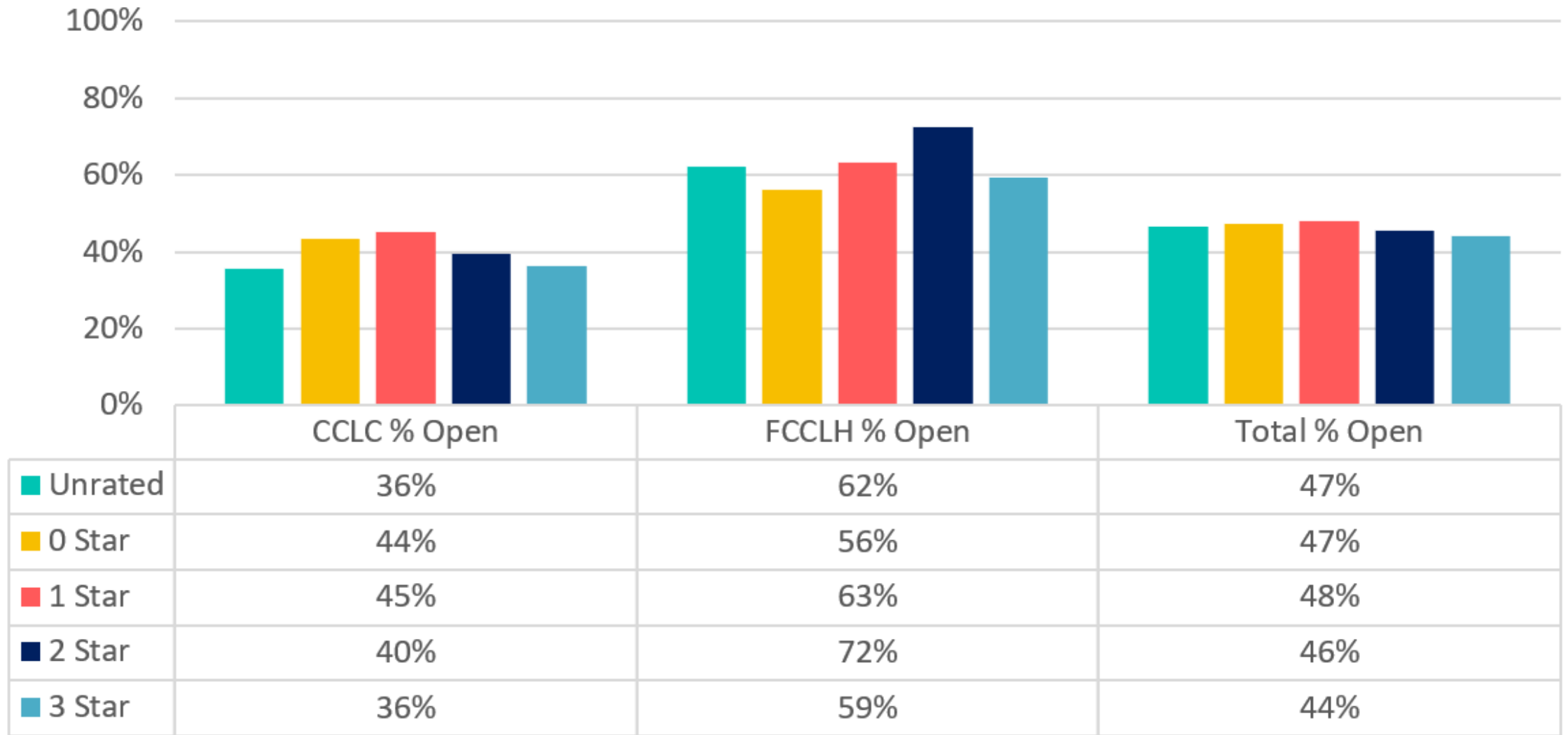


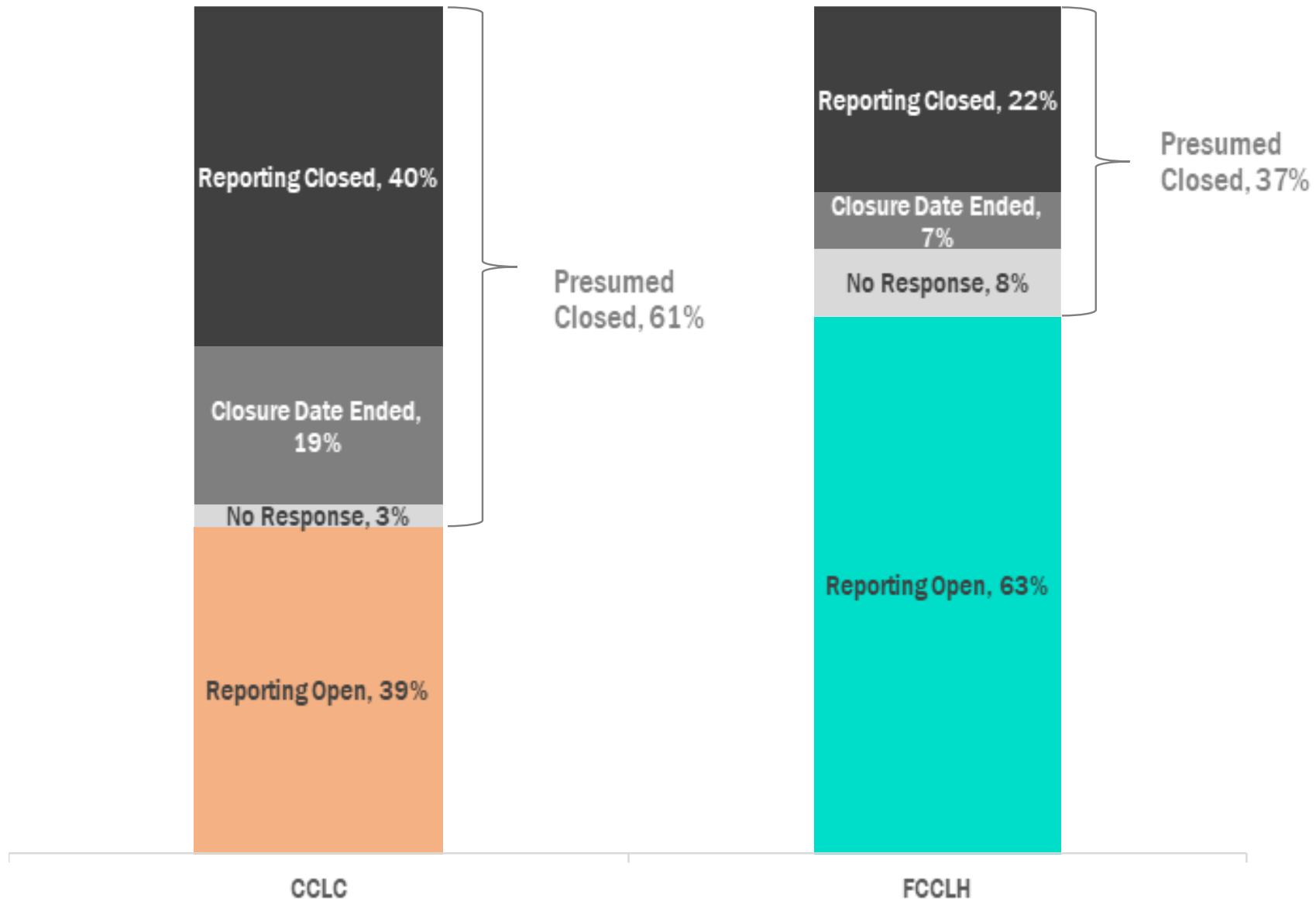
Reported Temporary Closure Status of Licensed Child Care during COVID-19

Updated: 5/13/2020



% of Licensed Child Care Providers Open by QR Rating





Budget Updates

Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance & Administration



**Georgia Dept
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BRIGHT FROM THE START

FY 2020 Budget FY 2021 Reduction FY 2021 Budget

BY PROGRAMS

Child Care Services	\$268,762,348	\$8,657,791	\$260,104,557
Pre-K + (HS)	\$378,878,805	\$53,018,533	\$325,860,272
Quality Initiatives	\$51,804,175	\$0	\$51,804,175
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$0	\$148,000,000
Total	\$847,445,328	\$61,676,324	\$785,769,004

BY FUNDING SOURCE

State General	\$61,841,364	\$8,657,791	\$53,183,573
State Lottery	\$378,703,805	\$53,018,533	\$325,685,272
Federal	\$404,798,159	\$0	\$404,798,159
Other	\$2,102,000	\$0	\$2,102,000
Total	\$847,445,328	\$61,676,324	\$785,769,004

Finance Update FY 2021 Budget



Child Care Services Program

DECAL Proposed Reduction				
Fund Source	FY 2020	FY 2021	Reduction Amount	% Change
State Funds	\$61,841,364	\$53,183,573	\$8,657,791	14%
Total Funds	\$268,762,348	\$260,104,557	\$8,657,791	3.2%

Specific Reductions

- Eliminate one vacant position (\$72,839)
- Redistribute funding for Salaries & Benefits (\$408,810)
- Shift all 3,000 Quality Rated Subsidy Grant (QRSG) slots to traditional CAPS slots (\$8,176,142)

Proposed Budget Reductions for FY 2021



Pre-K Program

DECAL Proposed Reduction				
Category	FY 2020	FY 2021	Reduction Amount	% Change
Admin	\$11,922,990	\$10,016,046	\$1,906,944	16%
Formula	\$366,780,815	\$315,669,226	\$51,111,589	13.9%
Total	\$378,703,805	\$325,685,272	\$53,018,533	14%

Specific Reductions

- Reduce Classroom Instructional Days from 180 to 167
- Reduce Teacher Planning Days from 10 to 4
- Reduce Slots Funded from 84,000 to 80,000
- Reduce Extended Day Funding
- Eliminate Summer Transition Program Lottery Funding
- Reduce Contracts
- Eliminate two vacant positions
- Reduce Computer Charges

Proposed Budget Reductions for FY 2021



Next Steps

Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs



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Welcome to the Board of Early Care
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Public Comments

May 14, 2020



**Georgia Dept
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Board Meeting Dates 2020

- ~~February 20, 2020~~
- ~~May 14, 2020~~
- August 27, 2020
- November 19, 2020

