



EXEMPTION NEWS YOU CAN USE!

September 2023



BACK TO SCHOOL

EDITION



HIGHLIGHTS

- WE ARE BACK – WITH A SMILE...
- ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPAREDNESS – ARE YOU PREPARED???
- CAPS HEALTH AND SAFETY MONITORING VISITS -
- REMINDERS FOR CATEGORIES 1 & 7...
- DECAL UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES...
- CHILD PROTECTION WEBINAR SERIES - FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES...
- ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES – EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTIGATIONS...
- SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH...
- NATIONAL STOP BULLYING DAY IS WEDNESDAY IS OCTOBER 11, 2023...
- ADDITIONAL RESOURCES / CONTACT US...

WE ARE BACK – WITH A SMILE



Coming to you fresh off the press, is our updated and resourceful Exemption Unit newsletter. In an effort to provide you with effective, relevant, and impactful information, we are excited to bring back this important bridge of communication. We are back with a smile and will make your time worthwhile by providing you with a newsletter that will be engaging, informative, and interesting to read. This newsletter is crafted with your program and Georgia's amazing children in mind.

It is our goal to keep programs that have been issued an exemption certificate up to date with the Exemptions Unit at DECAL. DECAL wants to ensure a program's exemptions policies and procedures are set in place and we want to inform you of any changes that are coming. We strive to provide you with essential resources and training opportunities as well. Please let us know if you have specific topics, you want us to cover or questions you want us to answer in future editions. We want to always do our very best to meet your needs by being a significant resource for you.



Active Shooter Preparedness

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Earlier this year, the Exemption Unit along with six (6) exempt providers throughout Georgia, partnered to prioritize evidence based on solutions for gun violence . The group focused on the safety and protection of children and staff members in exempt programs throughout the state. We recommend programs conduct safety drills for active shooter preparedness monthly.

		
RUN/ESCAPE	HIDE	FIGHT
IF POSSIBLE	IF ESCAPE IS NOT POSSIBLE	ONLY AS A LAST RESORT



CAPS Health and Safety Monitoring Visits

As part of DECAL's commitment to ensure safe and healthy environments for Georgia's youngest learners, we will continue conducting in-person Health and Safety visits for exempt programs for categories 1 and 7 that receive CAPS subsidies. It is important to ensure your program meets the core standards. To help your program be prepared, below is a list of the required documents that should be provided during the visit.

Documents Required for CAPS Health and Safety Monitoring Visits

Program

- Required Approvals
 - Recent fire marshal inspection report (within last 12 months)
- A copy of the Emergency Drill documentation (fire-monthly, tornado and other emergency situation drills- six months) (*maintain documentation for 2 years*)
- Program handbook (with discipline policy and emergency preparedness/response plan)
- Sign in & out sheets for current and 2 previous weeks.
- Field trip permission forms and passenger checklists (if applicable)
- Medication forms (if applicable) – Authorization and dispensing documentation
- Swimming Documentation (if in water 2 feet or more) – County approvals, Lifeguard Certification(s), parental authorizations & 15-yard swim tests
- Transportation documentation (if applicable)
 - Written permission to transport children.
 - Vehicle Emergency Medical Forms
 - Procedures for ensuring safety.
 - Annual vehicle inspection
 - Passenger Checklists - 2 weeks
 - Field trips documentation (if applicable) - permission forms, passenger checklists

Children

- (3) Children's files (Enrollment records, immunization, emergency contact info.)
 - Signed Parent acknowledgement indicating that parents have been informed that program is not licensed and not required to be licensed by Bright from the Start.

Staff

- A copy of the staff roster
- Criminal Background Checks (CBC) for all employees (if applicable) – including volunteers and students in training.
- CPR/First Aid certification for all staff (if applicable)
- Health and Safety Orientation for all staff hired over 90 days.
- Annual training (for all staff in the program over one year)

Decal Updates and Training Opportunities

Do you operate an afterschool program that serves meals to children? You may be eligible to receive reimbursement for meals and snacks through CACFP.

The At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operates when school is in session and offers federal funding to afterschool programs that serve a meal and/or snack to children.

To qualify for CACFP, the afterschool program must offer an enrichment activity, such as arts and crafts, homework assistance or life skills in a low-income area where at least half of the students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Participating in the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals gives children a safe place to go after school as well as the nutrition they need to concentrate on homework and to have fun with their friends.

If you would like more information about how to participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program, please contact Carl Glover by email at carl.glover@dec.al.ga.gov or by phone at (404) 217.3312.



FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

Child Protection Webinar Series Registration



Training opportunities are available for the Stephanie V. Blank Center for Child Protection Webinar series. To register to watch a live webinar training, please copy and paste this link into your web browser:

[Child Protection Webinar Series Registration \(choa.org\)](https://choa.org/child-protection-webinar-series-registration)

Webinar Selection and Summary

Live Training Dates and Times

Reconsidering Neglect: How a Thoughtful Assessment, Diagnosis & Management

Domestic Violence and Child Abuse -Tuesday, October 17th, 2023, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse in Georgia -Tuesday, Nov. 14th, 2023, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Online Safety: Keeping Children Safe in a Digital World Tues. Dec. 12, 2023, 12:00p.m.- 1:30p.m.

If you need assistance, please reach out to CPCTraining@choa.org

Additional Training Opportunities



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- Explore the benefits of collective, regenerative, and emergent leadership. Through Early Childhood Investigation Webinars. You can register for the following free classes by visiting their website: <https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com> or clicking on the link.
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 - September 13, 2023 - Exploring Beautiful Stuff from Nature with Basic Studio Art Tools, Materials, and Processes, by Cathy Weisman Topal
 - September 27, 2023 - Preschool Democracy: Teaching Young Children Five Democratic Life Skills, Dan Gartrell, Ed.D.
 - September 28, 2023 - Building Confidence and Guiding Resilience Skills in Young Children, Claire Goss, M.A.
 - October 4, 2023 - From Staff Manager to Inspiring Leader, by Evelyn Knight
 - October 5, 2023 - The Power of Adult Play for ECE Professionals, by Miriam Beloglovsky, M.A.
 - October 18, 2023 - Program Endurance: 3 Keys to Retaining Staff & Families, by Beth Cannon
 - October 25, 2023 - Strategies to Help Every Child Fly in Inclusive Early Childhood Classrooms and Programs, by Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph.D. and Jani Kozlowski, M.A.
 - October 26, 2023 - Anxiety in Preschool Children: Identifying and supporting anxious young learners , by Sarah Taylor Vanover, Ed.D.
 - Nov. 8, 2023 - Gift Books for Preschool Children (And the People Who Care For Them) From 3 Rockstar Librarians, by Betsy Bird, Martha Meyer and Bridget Petrites
 - December 6, 2023 – Overcoming Burnout in the ECE Workplace by Ellen Drolette

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Everyone can play a role in helping to prevent suicide. During the month of September many mental health organizations and individuals throughout the world raise awareness of suicide prevention. It is a time for everyone to unite and share resources and stories in an effort to educate and promote suicide intervention by focusing on directing treatment to those who need it most.

SUICIDE PREVENTION – DO YOU KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS?

WATCH THIS VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/4Y4LECy8Y5I>

(right click on the link then open hyperlink)

Also, if you or someone you know is struggling, 9-8-8 is a direct line to trained National Suicide Prevention Lifeline counselor.

Help is available 24 hours a day.



When You Contact 988

You don't have to say Who you are or Where you are.

You will get support from a trained Crisis Counselor.

Call or text 988, or chat 988Lifeline.org

There is Hope.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

CS331859-F

National STOP Bullying Day Wednesday, October 11, 2023

HOW EDUCATORS CAN RESPOND TO BULLYING

Bullying is one of the most serious problems among students of any age. It's important for educators to know how they can help stop bullying on the spot by learning the best ways to respond when or if bullying happens in your program. Helping to establish a supportive and safe program climate where students are accepted is key to making sure all children can learn and grow.

WATCH THIS VIDEO

https://youtu.be/_Uzx6Defq8k

(right click on the link then open hyperlink)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



National Maternal Mental Health Hotline

HRSA

For Support, Understanding, and Resources,
CALL OR TEXT 1-833-9-HELP4MOMS
1-833-943-5746

Free - Confidential - Available 24/7

The advertisement features a photograph of a woman holding a baby. In the top right corner, there is a speech bubble icon containing a heart. The HRSA logo is positioned below the hotline name. At the bottom right, there is a small circular logo of a bird in flight.



Need help finding
child care, financial
assistance, food
pantries, medical care
and other services in
your community?

Click Here

FIND HELP
GEORGIA

The advertisement features a magnifying glass with a green handle and a light blue outline of the state of Georgia inside the lens. The text is arranged in a circular layout around the magnifying glass. A yellow button with the text 'Click Here' is located on the right side.

Find Help Georgia is an easy way for families to get connected with support. Its database of local resources will help strengthen and build resilience for children and families.

findhelpga.org

DECAL Social Media



CONTACT INFORMATION

The Exemptions Unit is always delighted to support your program as you serve children and families in the community. To serve you effectively, we want to hear from you. You can contact us using any of the following:

E-mail: ccsexemptions@decals.ga.gov

Voicemail: 770-293-5977. We will respond to requests within one business day.

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
www.decals.ga.gov

