

Supporting Onsite Learning for Virtual Education Program



Purpose

Provide scholarships for families with students enrolled in a Georgia public school system that is primarily offering a virtual learning model. Scholarships support working families with children ages 5-12 (kindergarten and up) by paying for care, supervision, and support during the school day while students are engaged in virtual learning.

Basics

- SOLVE will provide financial assistance to qualifying families in the form of a “SOLVE Scholarship.”
- Scholarships are awarded to families who meet income and approved activity requirements and have a child(ren) aged 5-12 enrolled in a school system that is primarily offering a virtual learning model (where 50% or more of classroom instruction is virtual for any grade level kindergarten-7th).
- SOLVE Scholarships can be used at licensed child care learning centers, family child care learning homes, and providers with an approved day camp exemption.
- The Scholarship will be good for three months, but may be extended if the school system continues to offer only a virtual learning model.
- Families may receive a SOLVE Scholarship for any eligible child.

Funding and Administration

- The program is part of the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding allocated to Georgia through the CARES Act and is in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- SOLVE is administered by the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program located within the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL).



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Family Eligibility and Application

- Students must be between 5 and 12 years of age and attend a school system that is primarily offering a virtual learning model (where 50% or more of classroom instruction is virtual for any grade level kindergarten-7th).
- Family income may not exceed 85% of the state median income (SMI) found at the following link: http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/SOLVE_EligibilityRequirements.pdf
- Parents must meet approved activity criteria. Approved criteria include working, attending school, or a combination of the two.
- Families can apply for a SOLVE Scholarship through Georgia Gateway System. Applications will be available beginning September 1.
 - ⇒ The Georgia Gateway website is located at <https://gateway.ga.gov/access/>.
 - ⇒ Eligibility will be verified by CAPS staff.
- Families must select a provider when they apply.
 - ⇒ Families can search for eligible providers by visiting <http://qualityrated.org/> and selecting the “fulltime care for school age children” check box on the search page.
- SOLVE Scholarships do not require the family to pay a family fee. However, providers may charge the difference between the SOLVE Scholarship rate and the provider’s stated rate.



Provider Information

- Only licensed child care learning centers, licensed family child care learning homes, and providers with an approved day camp exemption from DECAL are eligible to offer SOLVE Scholarships.
- In addition to meeting licensing and/or exemption requirements, providers must also participate in the CAPS program and currently accept CAPS Scholarships.
- Providers will be reimbursed at current CAPS rates. Providers that are Quality Rated will receive the Tier Reimbursement amount for SOLVE Scholarships.

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Additional Information

- DECAL will provide additional information, including income eligibility and activity requirements, and resources related to SOLVE Scholarships at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/CAPS/Solve.aspx>.
- The list of school systems offering a primarily virtual learning model will be updated daily and is available at http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/SOLVE_EligibleSchoolsDistricts.pdf.
- Providers that are not licensed or exempt must apply through DECAL's Child Care Services (CCS) division. Application instructions and information about day camp exemptions are available at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/Exemptions.aspx>. For help call 404-657-5562 or email ChildCareServices@decal.ga.gov
- CAPS registration and documentation requirements for providers is available at <https://caps.decal.ga.gov/en/CAPSProviderHowTo>.
- It is important that interested providers update their DECAL KOALA accounts to indicate that their facility is open and providing supervised distance learning for school-age children. Instructions for updating:
 - ⇒ Log in to your DECAL KOALA account at www.decalkoala.com
 - ⇒ On the green Menu Bar, click Facility Update
 - ⇒ Click Operating Details
 - ⇒ Enter your program's COVID-19 information in the blue area, including dates closed and open
 - ⇒ Indicate whether your program is open to serve school-age children all day to facilitate virtual distance learning
- Children will not be able hold both a CAPS Scholarship and a SOLVE Scholarship at the same time. DECAL will work with families of children eligible for both to ensure a seamless transition if needed.

