

Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Rulemaking
Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

***Rules and Regulations for
Child Care Learning Centers
Rule Chapter 591-1-1***

Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.02
Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.21
Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.35

***Rules and Regulations for
Family Child Care Learning Homes
Rule Chapter 290-2-3***

Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.03
Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.07
Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.08
Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.12
Proposed Adoption of Rule 290-2-3-.22

***Rules and Regulations for
Support Centers
Rule Chapter 591-3-1***

Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-3-1-.03
Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-3-1-.04

Notice Date: July 27, 2026

Dear Sir or Madam:

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) proposes to amend Rule Chapter 591-1-1 in the *Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers*, Rule Chapter 290-2-3 in the *Rules and Regulations for Family Child Care Learning Homes* and Rule Chapter 591-3-1 in the *Rules and Regulations for Support Centers* in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-13-1, *et seq.*

DECAL proposes these amendments to clarify federal compliance requirements, correct federal code references, revise definitions, eliminate nonessential and duplicative provisions, and strengthen health and safety protections for children in care. Additionally, DECAL proposes the adoption of a new rule chapter to exempt military Family Child Care Learning Homes that meet specified criteria and are regulated by a branch of the U.S. military from licensure requirements administered by the Department of Early Care & Learning.

The proposed amendments and adoption have been posted under the Proposed Revisions tab on DECAL's website at [Rules and Regulations \(ga.gov\)](https://rulesandregulations.ga.gov).

The proposed amendments and adoption are being considered on a permanent basis, and DECAL invites interested parties to comment on them. Interested parties may submit written comments by mail to 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334; by fax to 678-891-5643; by entering comments through the TEAMS chat box at: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/675935cc-4c32-48ed-8cda->

c3ad3c654e50@b8e0a1a4-a274-4c23-97e9-608b64c12f4e during the public hearing; or by e-mail to CCSRuleRevisions@dec.al.ga.gov. To be considered, DECAL must receive written comments on or before 5 p.m., August 26, 2026. Comments made in writing will be given the same consideration as those that are made verbally.

Interested parties who prefer to make verbal comments on the proposed rule changes may do so at a public hearing before the Board of Early Care and Learning. The public hearing will be held from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, East Tower 8th Floor, Oak Room, Atlanta, Georgia 30334 on Thursday, August 27, 2026. Speakers should sign in to speak before 1 p.m. If no guest speakers sign in before 1 p.m., the board will resume its regular meeting. Guest speakers wishing to address the board in person who arrive after 1 p.m. will still be allowed to make a public statement.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing even if they choose not to make verbal comments regarding the rule amendment and adoption proposals.

We appreciate our partnership with you in meeting the early care and education needs of Georgia's children and families, and we value your expertise and experience as we refine the rules and regulations that ensure our children remain healthy and safe.

Sincerely,



Pam Stevens
Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services