

Supporting Onsite Learning for Virtual Education Program



Purpose

Provide scholarships for families with students enrolled in a Georgia public school system, state charter commission school, or locally approved charter school that is primarily offering a virtual learning model. Scholarships support working families with children and young adults by paying for care, supervision, and support during the school day while students engage 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 student ages 5-12, or up to age 22 for students with a qualifying disability. The student must be 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. Families with a student with a qualifying disability may be approved for another type of provider.
- The Scholarship will be good for three months, but may be extended if the family still meets eligibility at the time of the scholarship expiration.
- 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, or up to age 22 with a qualifying disability, 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) unless the student has a qualifying disability. SMI information is available at: 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.
 - ⇒ 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. Other provider types may be approved for students with a qualifying disability. Information on Informal providers is available at http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/SOLVE_InformalProviderRequirements.pdf.
- 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.

