



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 656-5957

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

August 20, 2020

Dear Child Care Provider,

We are writing to tell you about a special resource **for families** whose children ages 5-12 are engaged in virtual learning and **for those of you** who agree to care for school age students engaged in virtual learning.

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is receiving funds to provide scholarships to school age children participating in distance learning and who need child care while their parents work. These scholarships will help pay for care, supervision, and support during the school day. The program, called Supporting Onsite Learning for Virtual Education (SOLVE), provides additional child care options for students whose school systems have opted for a virtual learning model.

If you are accepting school age children participating in virtual learning, you should update your KOALA profile to reflect this service. DECAL has added a new service indicator to providers' profiles in KOALA.

Families applying for SOLVE scholarships will be linked to DECAL's provider search to help them locate child care that will support their child's virtual learning. You can help families find your program by updating your profile following the instructions below:

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
- Enter if your program will care for school-age children all day and support virtual learning

We've always known that child care is more than just "baby sitting" ...that child care providers have been an integral part of child development and early education. That fact is more evident today than ever, and we thank you for your willingness to continue supporting quality education for all Georgia's children.

Sincerely,

Pam Stevens
Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services

Elisabetta Kasfir
Deputy Commissioner of Federal Program Eligibility