

**Bright from the Start - Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower

Atlanta, GA 30334

Phone: (404)657-5562 www.dec.state.ga.us

(Cover Sheet)**Date:** 3/31/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS Monitoring Follow-Up**Arrival:** 9:00AM**Departure:** 9:55AM**EX-43897 EXMT-6404 EX-1 - Government
DeKalb County Schools ASED - Marbut Theme**5776 Marbut Road, Lithonia GA 30058 DeKalb
County**Mailing Address****Exemption Unit Consultant**

Keia Cole

Phone: (678) 717-5146

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Joint with:

Compliance Zone Designation			Prevention Action Category	Intermediate Action Category	Dismissal Action Category
3/31/2026	EX-CAPS Monitoring Follow-Up	Prevention	Prevention Level 1 (P1)	Intermediate Level 1 (I1)	Dismissal (D)
			Technical Assistance	Corrective Action Plan	Dismissal
				Office Conference	Disqualification
			Prevention Level 2 (P2)	Intermediate Level 2 (I2)	
			Citation	Fine (Level 1 or 2)	
			Plan of Improvement		
			Prevention Level 3 (P3)	Intermediate Level 3 (I3)	

Room Description	Age Groups	Staff Count	Children Count	State Ratio Met	Notes
Cafeteria		0	0	Y	
Courtyard		0	0	Y	
Courtyard 2		0	0	Y	
First & Second Grades		0	0	Y	
Fourth & Fifth Grades		0	0	Y	
Gym		0	0	Y	
Media Center		0	0	Y	
Playground		0	0	Y	
PreK - Kindergarten		0	0	Y	
Room 14		0	0	Y	
Room 2		0	0	Y	
Room 35		0	0	Y	
Room 38		0	0	Y	
Room 7		0	0	Y	
Third & Fourth Grades		0	0	Y	

Group Sizes Met? Y

Total # Non-Care Staff Present: 0

#Staff Count: 0

#Children Count: 0

Comments:

Follow-up monitoring visit completed on this date. The child care program is in compliance with the approved exemption category.

Please refer to the Exemption page of the website, <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/Exemptions.aspx> for information regarding Criminal Records Checks that may affect your facility. In summary,

- New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the child care industry
- New clearance is required at least once every five years
- Any staff member solely responsible for supervising children will be required to have completed a comprehensive background clearance
- All staff members are required to have completed at least a national fingerprint based clearance check
- Any staff member with only the national fingerprint based clearance, must be under constant and direct supervision of a staff member with a satisfactory comprehensive records check clearance
- Facilities are required to use DECAL KOALA for Criminal Records Checks, including to verify portability of an employee

You have the right to refute any of the citations noted in this report with which you disagree. To refute a citation(s), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the user id for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific standard number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the standard citation, and upload supporting documentation.
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

Your refutation will be forwarded to the appropriate CCS manager, who will follow up with you about your concerns. If you have any questions about this process, contact our office at 404-657-5562.

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(Summary Report)**Date:** 3/31/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS Monitoring Follow-Up**Arrival:** 9:00AM**Departure:** 9:55AM**EX-43897 EXMT-6404 EX-1 - Government**
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The following information is associated with a EX-CAPS-Monitoring FollowUp:

	Facility
EX-HS-.L Physical Plant(CS)	Not Met

Finding

EX-HS-.L(2) requires the Program to be in compliance with applicable laws and regulations issued by the state fire marshal, the proper local fire marshal or state inspector, including a certificate of occupancy if required prior to receiving any children for care. It was determined based on a review of records that the Program did not have evidence of a recent Fire Marshal inspection available for review by the Department during the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Program will obtain appropriate approvals, and ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations by the state fire marshal, proper local fire marshal or state inspector, including a certificate of occupancy, are maintained and met. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026**Recited on 3/31/2026**

EX-HS-.M Playgrounds(CS)	Defer
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Finding

EX-HS-.M(3) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Program to ensure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the playground had several tripping hazards due to the underlay material not being covered on both playground areas.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Program will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2026**Recited on 3/31/2026****Defer**

EX-HS-.M(4) - It was stated that the ant beds were treated; however, it was not able to be observed by the consultant on this date. This citation will be re-inspected during the next monitoring visit.

	Policies and Procedures
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EX-HS-.J Operational Policies & Procedures	Met
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Corrected on 3/31/2026**EX-HS-.J1(a-i) - The previous citation was corrected and completed on this date.**

	Staff Records
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Corrected on 3/31/2026

EX-HS-.P(3)(a-k) -The previous citation was corrected and completed on this date.

Finding

EX-HS-.P(4)(a-b) requires staff complete annual training (a) Every calendar year after the first year of employment, the Director, Provisional Employees and Employees shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source.

(b) The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include the following:

1. At least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices;
2. At least two (2) hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics, which could include, but not be limited to:

(i) Child development (e.g., developmental domains (cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; approaches to play and learning), discipline and guidance techniques, children with special needs);

(ii) Health (e.g., nutrition and the support of breast feeding, physical activity, prevention and control of illnesses and infectious diseases, immunizations, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, cleanliness, sanitation, and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants);

(iii) Safety (e.g., prevention of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the use of safe sleeping practices, medication administration, injury control and prevention, transportation, handling and storage of hazardous materials, identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic, and emergency preparedness planning and response);

(iv) Child abuse and neglect (e.g., identification and reporting, meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment).

3. No more than two (2) of the required ten (10) hours in business-related topics (e.g., parental communication, recordkeeping, management, business planning). It was determined based on a review of records that six out of six staff members did not have evidence of 10 additional hours of child-related task-focused training, including the two hours of language literacy training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Program will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/24/2026

Recited on 3/31/2026