

**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:** 12/9/2025 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS-Monitoring**Arrival:** 3:30PM**Departure:** 5:15PM**EX-44228 EXMT-6901 EX-1 - Government
Bibb County School District - Northwoods
Academy**

709 Pierce Avenue, Macon GA 31204 Bibb County

Mailing Address**Exemption Unit Consultant**

Brianne Walters

Phone: (912) 544-9775

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brianne.walters@dec.state.ga.us

Joint with:

Compliance Zone Designation			Prevention Action Category	Intermediate Action Category	Dismissal Action Category
12/9/2025	EX-CAPS-Monitoring	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
library		0	0	Y	
Lunchroom		0	0	Y	
playground		0	0	Y	
Room 1	, Fours, Fives, Six and older	2	25	Y	
sensory room		0	0	Y	

Group Sizes Met? Y

Total # Non-Care Staff Present: 0

#Staff Count: 2

#Children Count: 25

Comments:

The program was 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:** 12/9/2025 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS-Monitoring**Arrival:** 3:30PM**Departure:** 5:15PM**EX-44228 EXMT-6901 EX-1 - Government
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The following information is associated with a EX-CAPS-Monitoring:**Activities and Equipment****EX-HS-.A Activities****Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.A - Activities observed to be appropriate and safe for children in care.

EX-HS-.F Equipment & Toys**Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.F - The equipment and furniture observed to be properly used, secured and did not pose a hazard.

EX-HS-.Q Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CS)**N/A****Comment**

EX-HS-.Q - The Program does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records**EX-HS-.C Children's Records****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Discussed that the program should maintain copies of all enrolled children's immunization certificates as required by The Division of Public Health.

Comment

EX-HS-.C(1)(a-d) - Observed children's files as required.

Technical Assistance

EX-HS-.C(2) - Discussed that the program should maintain copies of all enrolled children's immunization certificates as required by The Division of Public Health.

Exemptions**EX-HS-.X Exemption Requirements****Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.X - Program operating as approved.

Facility**EX-HS-.B Bathrooms****Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.B - Program observed to have adequate toilets, sinks and supplies available.

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 that the program did not have evidence of a fire safety inspection dated within the last 12 months.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Program director stated that the inspection has been completed and a copy of the inspection has been requested from the City and has not yet been received. 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.

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2026

EX-HS-.M Playgrounds(CS)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

The program will continue to place cones in the following areas discussed to ensure children do not have access to playground hazards: (1) end of the double slides located on the large play structure at the back left of the playground (when exiting the school through the door, used during today's visit). Since the poured-in rubber surfacing has deteriorated, compromising the resilient surfacing and also presenting a tripping hazard. (2) Fencing along the back left of the playground, The area is located to the left of the piece of equipment mentioned above. This area should be restricted since the bottom of the fencing is not flush with the ground and could potentially be pushed/pulled and present an entrapment hazard. In addition, there are several protruding bolts on that gate and fencing round the gate, and at the corner of the playground fence.

Health and Hygiene**EX-HS-.U Diapering Areas & Practices(CS)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering facilities observed and standards discussed during the visit.

EX-HS-.H Hygiene**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Discussed handwashing requirements: children and staff hands should be washed with liquid soap and warm running water (a) upon arrival for care to the program; (b) when moving from one child care group to another; (c) upon re-entering the child care area after outside play; (d) before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food; (e) after toileting and diapering and; (f) playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids, and after contamination by any other means.

EX-HS-.I Medications(CS)**N/A****Comment**

EX-HS-.I - Medication is not dispensed.

Policies and Procedures**EX-HS-.J Operational Policies & Procedures****Not Met****Finding**

EX-HS-.J(2) requires programs to conduct drills for fire, tornado, severe weather, loss of electrical power or water and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the Program; to have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The program shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on review, there was only documentation of a fire drill and tornado drill for October 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The program will conduct the drills as required (fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months) and maintain the documentation of the drills on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 12/9/2025

EX-HS-.T Required Reporting**Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.T - The program has not had any incidents that required reporting.

Safety**EX-HS-.E Discipline(CS)****Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.E - Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

EX-HS-.S Field Trips**N/A****Comment**

EX-HS-.S - No field trips are conducted at the program.

EX-HS-.R Transportation(CS)**N/A****Comment**

EX-HS-.R - Program does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**EX-HS-.V Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CS)****N/A****Comment**

EX-HS-.V - No safe sleep policies are necessary.

Staff Records**EX-HS-.D Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CS)****Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.D(1) - Evidence of satisfactory comprehensive records check determination letters were observed on file for 10 current employees.

EX-HS-.G First Aid & CPR(CS)**Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.G - Observed evidence of staff training in CPR and first aid on this date.

EX-HS-.K Personnel Records**Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.K - Observed personal records maintained.

EX-HS-.N Staff Requirements**Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.N - Observed a director or person responsible for overall supervision of the program.

EX-HS-.P Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Discussed the following regarding the Health & Safety Orientation Training that is required by all staff within 90 days of employment: When taking the free training through GaPDS/DECAL, all three trainings must be successfully completed to meet licensing requirements. In total, this series of training will provide 15 hours of training credit. The three trainings are: Health and Safety: Child Development, Health and Safety: Health and Nutrition, and Health and Safety: Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

Staffing and Supervision**EX-HS-.O Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision(CS)****Met****Comment**

EX-HS-.O(1) - Appropriate staff child ratios and supervision observed on this date.