

**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:** 2/5/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS Monitoring Follow-Up**Arrival:** 11:30AM **Departure:** 12:15PM**EX-43889 EXMT-6396 EX-1 - Government  
DeKalb County Schools ASED - School of Arts**3131 Old Rockbridge Road, Avondale Estates GA  
30002 DeKalb County**Mailing Address**

Same

**Exemption Unit Consultant**

Melissa Malone

Phone: (770) 359-5224

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melissa.malone@dec.state.ga.us

Joint with:

| Compliance Zone Designation |                              |            | Prevention Action Category | Intermediate Action Category | Dismissal Action Category |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2/5/2026                    | 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 |
|------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Cafe             |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Gym              |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Playground       |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Room 704         |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Room 705         |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Room 706         |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Room 712         |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Room 716         |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Room 802         |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Room 803         |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Room 804         |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |
| Room 810         |            | 0           | 0              | Y               |       |

Group Sizes Met? Y

Total # Non-Care Staff Present: 0

#Staff Count: 0

#Children Count: 0

Comments:

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

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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](http://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:** 2/5/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS Monitoring Follow-Up**Arrival:** 11:30AM **Departure:** 12:15PM**EX-43889 EXMT-6396 EX-1 - Government**  
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Joint with:

**The following information is associated with a EX-CAPS-Monitoring FollowUp:**

|                                    | <b>Facility</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>EX-HS-.L Physical Plant(CS)</b> | <b>Not Met</b>  |

**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 could not produce evidence of a recent fire inspection as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The program will obtain appropriate approvals and is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations by the state fire marshal, proper local fire marshal, or state inspector, including a certificate of occupancy. All files including a recent Fire Inspection report will be reviewed at the follow up visit.

**Correction Deadline: 3/4/2026****Recited on 2/5/2026**

| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|
|----------------------|

**EX-HS-.G First Aid & CPR(CS)****Met****Corrected on 2/5/2026**

**EX-HS-.G(1)(a-b)** - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Consultant observed that Pediatric CPR and First Aid was completed.

**Finding**

EX-HS-.P(3)(a-k) requires each staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety training and Health and Safety Orientation training. Each staff member with direct care responsibilities shall complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics:

- (a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization)
- (b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices;
- (c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent;
- (d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions;
- (e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic;
- (f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment;
- (g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility);
- (h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants;
- (i) precautions in transporting children;
- (j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and
- (k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that 12 of 21 staff members did not complete Health and Safety training within the first 90 days of hire as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The program will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates. All staff files including Health and Safety training will be reviewed during the follow up visit.

**Correction Deadline: 3/4/2026**

**Recited on 2/5/2026**

**Finding**

EX-HS-.P(4)(a-b) requires, staff complete annual training (a) Every calendar year after the first year of employment, the Provider, 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 the review of records that none of the 21 staff members have completed annual training as required.

**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. All staff files including annual training will be reviewed during the follow up visit.

**Correction Deadline: 3/4/2026**

**Recited on 2/5/2026**