



## BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
(404) 656-5957

**Nathan Deal**  
GOVERNOR

**Bobby D. Cagle, MSW**  
COMMISSIONER

August 31, 2012

Mr. Williams G. Yancey, Administrator  
Holy Ground Baptist Church, Inc.  
d/b/a Holy Ground Baptist Academy  
1355 North Highway 27  
Roopville, Georgia 30170  
(Carroll County)

Re: Holy Ground Baptist Academy

Dear Mr. Yancey:

This is in response to your exemption request for your currently licensed pre-school program for children. Based on your description of services, this program meets the criteria for exemption from state licensure set forth in Rule 290-2-2-.05(f) 14 and your request is approved. The information you submitted confirmed the program is an integral part of an established religious congregation or religious school and on the exemption request form you agreed to the required conditions. The conditions you must meet in order to maintain this exemption approval include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Return the actual Bright from the Start license - Rule 591-1-1-.16(d).
2. Maintain current accreditation and submit annual proof of this accreditation to Bright from the Start.
3. Comply with all applicable requirements for background checks for directors and employees.
4. Comply with all applicable local, regional, and state health department, state fire marshal, and local fire prevention guidelines and requirements.
5. Cooperate with authorized audits and complaint investigations conducted by Bright from the Start.
6. Publish the accreditation standards and make them available to parents of enrolled or prospective students.
7. Provide written notice to parents of enrolled children if the program does not carry liability insurance.
8. Post in a conspicuous place in the facility a copy of the exemption notice provided by Bright from the Start without alteration.

A more detailed list of requirements can be found on the Exemption Request Form for Faith-based Child Care Programs that you completed and on the enclosed copy of Rule 290-2-2-.05(f)14.

**NOTE: Approval of this exemption means this child care program is not licensed by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Therefore, this program is not required to comply with the Bright from the Start rules and regulations for child care learning centers. Bright from the Start may conduct unannounced audits of background checks or investigate complaints regarding compliance with background check requirements, as well as compliance with local, regional, and state health department, state fire marshal, and local fire prevention guidelines and requirements.**

Rule 591-1-1-.16(d) of the Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Rules for Child Care Learning Centers requires that the license be returned to Bright from the Start upon closure or termination of any program. While your program will continue to operate, it will be closed as a licensed program in our records. This status will be reflected in our internal database and in the program's state file, but exemption information is not currently available on the Bright from the Start public access website. Please return your actual license to me at:

Bright from the Start  
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
Child Care Services  
Attention: Shyreeta Hicks  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

This exemption remains valid as long as there are no changes in the program. If you alter the program in any way, cease operating or move you must submit a new exemption request form for review. Copies of this letter and the enclosed Exemption Notice must be posted in a conspicuous location in the program for public viewing. New requirements are now in effect for all exempt programs, regardless of when the exemption was granted. A list of the new requirements is enclosed. Current information about exemptions can be found at [www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov).

Sincerely,



Shyreeta Hicks  
Quality Assurance Program Specialist

Enclosures

cc: State file  
Exemption file  
Laura Davis  
Shamonica Reese

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

EFFECTIVE August 31, 2012

Holy Ground Baptist Academy  
1355 North Highway 27  
Roopville, Georgia 30170

**This program is not licensed by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and is not required to be licensed.**

**Bright from the Start does not regulate or routinely inspect this program.**

For details about the exemption(s) approved for this program, please see the letter posted with this notice.  
For additional information, go to [www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov) or call 404-657-5562.

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334



THIS NOTICE AND THE EXEMPTION APPROVAL LETTER MUST BE POSTED IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION IN THE PROGRAM.

# NEW RULES FOR EXEMPT PROGRAMS – EFFECTIVE NOW

New exemption rules are now in effect that include new requirements for all exempt programs, regardless of when the exemption was granted. All exempt programs must now:

- Submit and maintain a valid and current e-mail address.
- Post a copy of the exemption approval letter and a notice that the program is not licensed and is not required to be licensed by the state that includes Bright from the Start's phone number and website address. (The Department will include the notice with approval letters.)
- Provide notice to parents/guardians of enrolled children if you do not carry liability insurance.
- Obtain the signature of parent(s) or guardian(s) on a form that indicates they have been advised and understand the program is not licensed.
- Maintain attendance records for all children.
- Maintain parental acknowledgement forms and attendance records on-site while a child is enrolled and for one year after a child is no longer enrolled.
- Make all records available to Bright from the Start upon request.
- Notify Bright from the Start in writing within five business days if your program stops operating, closes or loses accreditation.
- Comply with zoning, certificate of occupancy, fire inspection, health department requirements.
- On the new Exemption Application, notarize the signature(s) and include a sworn statement that the information provided is truthful and accurate.
- Submit a new exemption application if there are material changes in the operation of the program, such as a change of location, changes in operating months, days and/or hours, change in ages served.

All programs that were granted an exemption based on the former Exemption Request Form will submit a new exemption application according to a schedule developed by Bright from the Start. In the meantime, exempt programs may continue to operate as approved.

Bright from the Start may rescind an approved exemption under the conditions listed in Rule 290-2-2-.05(e)7.

**For more information, including copies of the current exemption rules, forms and information sheets, go to the Bright from the Start website: <http://dec.al.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/Exemptions.aspx> where you will find:**

- Chapter 290-2-2-.05(e) Exemptions and 290-2-2-.05(f) Exemption Categories (new rules)
- Exemption Application (revised to include new categories and new requirements-must be used to apply for any new exemption beginning March 22, 2012).
- Attachment A (must be completed and submitted with the Exemption Application only if applying for the religious/faith-based exemption)

## Questions?

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404-657-5562 [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov)