



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: March 20, 2020

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo #8
State ECE Funded Programs: Payment, Reporting, and Quality Assurance Waivers

The Office of Early Childhood is in close communication with the Governor, the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the state's Emergency Operation Center. This situation continues to evolve and we will continue to monitor closely and communicate with you again soon.

Modifications to statutes, regulations and policies will cease when the declared state of emergency ends.

Payments

- The OEC will continue funding all state-funded programs and settings (Child Day Care, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, Even Start, School Readiness, Smart Start, State Head Start Supplement) at the full monthly allocation regardless of child attendance or program closure for the March 2020 reporting period.
- The OEC will waive all requirements related to the annual minimum operating schedules, due to COVID-19, thereby exceeding the maximum day of closure. General Statutes §§ 10-16n - 10-16u.

Reporting

- The OEC expects programs to continue to keep accurate records of the children in their care, their attendance, family fees collected, and staffing. However, the OEC will waive the requirement to enter information into OEC Registry or ECIS, and will not penalize programs for late submissions of monthly reports due to COVID-19. General Statutes §§ 10-16n - 10-16u, 10-265n, 10-506.

Quality Assurance Requirements

- The OEC will recognize any extensions communicated to the specific program by NAEYC or the Office of Head Start. The OEC is delaying the assignment and deployment of ERS raters for assessments due to COVID-19. General Statutes §§ 10-16n - 10-16u, 10-265n, 10-506.
- As previously stated in Memo #7, the OEC will consider a certification that expires during the COVID-19 crisis as valid (until the declared state of emergency ends). Programs may wish to contact their training agency to ask about emergency extensions. General Statutes §§ 10-16n - 10-16u, 10-265n, 10-506.

Qualified Staff Member (QSM)

- The OEC expects programs to take all measures to ensure that children are receiving the best care possible, but recognizes that staffing will become impacted during this crisis. The OEC will temporarily waive QSM requirements due to COVID-19. General Statutes §§ 10-16n, 10-16p, 10-265n, 10-506.