



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Guidance Related to COVID-19: Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP) Closures May 12, 2020

Background

As part of the District's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is sharing updated guidance regarding closure policies and child outcome assessments for child care providers that participate in the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP).

Scope

This document contains guidance regarding the operating status and child outcome assessment requirements for providers participating in the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP). The guidance is in response to the Mayor's announcement that all DC Public Schools (DCPS) facilities will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. The announcement followed the release of the [Mayor's Order 2020-063](#) extending the public health emergency, stay at home order and closure of non-essential businesses through June 8.

Date Issued

This guidance was issued on May 12, 2020 and will remain in effect through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Guidance

Based on the emergency Mayor's Order and public health emergency Mayor's order issued by the Mayor, OSSE has activated the [District-wide Child Care Disaster Response Plan \(CCDRP\)](#).

OSSE is issuing this guidance to clarify how the closure of DCPS school buildings impacts the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP) participants.

1. According to 5-A DCMR § 3500.3(g) of the pre-K regulations, each high-quality pre-K program shall meet and maintain the following eligibility criteria:
 - a. Operate Monday through Friday, beginning no earlier than 7:00 a.m.; provide at least six and a half (6.5) hours of pre-K education services, at least thirty-nine (39) weeks a year, for a total of at least one hundred eighty (180) days; and follow the holiday and closing calendar schedule of the District of Columbia Public Schools.

At this time, OSSE strongly encourages PKEEP providers to follow [DCPS operating status](#) that extends closures for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year and ends the school year on May 29.

We understand that most PKEEP programs currently have an OSSE approved closure date and are adhering to the policies published in [OSSE's Guidance Related to COVID-19: Child Care Provider Closures and Public Funding](#). **Please note the above notice regarding the closure status for PKEEP providers only**

applies to PKEEP classrooms. Child development providers should not apply the above standard to any non-PKEEP or other infant and toddler classrooms housed in your facility.

2. Additionally, 5-A DCMR § 3506.3 of the pre-K regulations requires high-quality pre-K programs that receive pre-K enhancement and expansion funding to report as follows:
 - a. Submit individual child outcome assessment data for all pre-K age children enrolled on November 30, February 28, and May 31 of each program year.

At this time, OSSE will waive the requirement to submit individual child outcome assessment data on May 31, thus suspending the third data submission outlined in 5-A DCMR § 3506.3.

NOTICE:

We also recognize that given the unprecedented nature of this public health matter, the staff and administrators in our PKEEP facilities continue to provide administrative oversight and management and educational opportunities for pre-K 3 and pre-K 4-year-olds and we want to support these and other activities. Please see the items in the next section for information on how OSSE continues to support PKEEP providers.

I. **Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP)**

Payment will continue to all facilities participating in PKEEP for costs incurred through September 30, 2020. OSSE is suspending the normal PKEEP requirements, which is based on compliance with instructional learning and other high-quality standards. During the activation of CCDRP, payments will be made based on OSSE's updated Guidance Related to COVID-19: Child Care Provider Closures and Public Funding found [here](#).

II. **Providers who continue to operate**

Any providers who are continuing to operate should please contact Eva Laguerre, at Eva.Laguerre@dc.gov or (202) 741-5942 regarding your willingness to provide services to the families of health care professionals and other essential personnel.

Potential Exposure and COVID-19 Reporting

If you believe the facility has been exposed to the COVID-19, the facility should follow the existing procedures for filing an [Unusual Incident Report](#). Child care providers who believe their community may have been directly exposed to COVID-19 and are seeking guidance on the potential need for closure should also contact the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) at (202) 727-5707 or DME.DismissalAdvice@dc.gov. When contacting the DME, providers will be asked to share the following information:

- Name, location of your child care facility, and direct contact information
- Details about the circumstances involving potential or confirmed exposure – who, contact with infected person/people and exposure to your facility
- What communications you have shared with your community to date

The District continually monitors all emergencies and will issue additional guidance as circumstances change.

In the event you decide to close your facility, please remember to submit an [Unusual Incident Report](#) to osse.childcarecomplaints@dc.gov or to your designated licensing specialist. We are grateful for your ongoing patience, flexibility and cooperation as we manage the dynamic nature of this event. As we approach the next few weeks, we ask for continued patience and trust as the District navigates this unique situation.

Questions?

If you have questions relating to this guidance please contact Eva Laguerre, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning and Director, Licensing & Compliance, Division of Early Learning, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) at (202) 741-5942 or Eva.Laguerre@dc.gov.

Related Regulations

- Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program Act of 2008, effective July 18, 2008 (D.C. Law 17-202; D.C. Official Code §§ 38-272-273 (Pre-K Act));
- CCDBG Act, 42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq., and its implementing regulations, 45 C.F.R. Parts 98 and 99, as administered by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- District of Columbia's Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan, current version;
- Child Development Facilities Regulation Act of 1998, effective April 13, 1999 (D.C. Law 12-215; D.C. Official Code §§ 7-2031 et seq. (2012 Repl. & 2017 Supp.)) ("Facilities Act");
- Day Care Policy Act of 1979, effective September 19, 1979 (D.C. Law 3-16; D.C. Official Code §§ 4-401 et seq. (2012 Repl. & 2017 Supp.)) ("Day Care Act");
- Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships Grant, 42 U.S.C. 9801 et seq.;
- Early Learning Quality Improvement Network Amendment Act of 2015, (D.C. Act 21-231, D.C. Official Code § 4-415.); and
- Enhancement and Expansion Amendment Act of 2008, effective July 18, 2008 (D.C. Law 17-202; D.C. Official Code §§ 38-271.01 et seq.).