



Meeting:	State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council	
Date/ Time:	Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2-3 p.m.	
Location:	Please register for the meeting using this link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2109058321145301516 .	
Agenda Items		
I. Welcome	Hanseul Kang State Superintendent of Education OSSE	
II. Coronavirus: Policy Guidance for Child Development Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Provider Closures and Public Funding Eva Laguerre Interim Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning Director, Licensing and Compliance OSSE • Early Child Care Meal Provision Guidance Heidi Schumacher Assistant Superintendent of Health and Wellness OSSE • Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C Provision of Early Intervention Services (Strong Start) Andres Alvarado Director, Strong Start OSSE 	
III. Announcements	All	
IV. Public Comment	Open	
V. Wrap-Up/Next Steps/Adjourn	Hanseul Kang	



State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council (SECDCC)

March 18, 2020



Welcome



Coronavirus: Policy Guidance for Child Development Facilities



Child Care Provider Closures and Public Funding

Child Care Provider Closures and Public Funding

- Based on the emergency executive order and the issuance of a public health emergency executive order issued by the Mayor, **OSSE has activated** the [District-wide Child Care Disaster Response Plan \(CCDRP\)](#).
- At this time, OSSE strongly encourages that child development centers follow [DCPS operating status](#) under **which students will not be coming to school facilities through March 31**.
- If you choose to close your facility at this time, **OSSE will continue to provide payments** based on the program and requirements as described on the next slide.
- We also recognize that given the unprecedented nature of this public health matter, the families of our health care work force have critical needs as it pertains to child care; we are looking for ways to meet those needs and will be sharing additional details soon.

Child Care Subsidy Program

- **Payment will continue to facilities receiving subsidy.** OSSE is suspending the normal requirements related to our subsidy payment policy, which is based on attendance.
- In order to receive continuing subsidy payments during the current public health emergency, **all facilities must follow the following process:**
 1. Notify your designated OSSE education service monitor **in writing prior to closing** in order to receive approval;
 2. Follow the existing procedures for filing an **Unusual Incident Report** indicating the closure is due to either A) the public health emergency or B) possible exposure to COVID-19.

Quality Improvement Network (QIN)

- For closures during the activation of the CCDRP, **payment will continue on its normal process.** Payments continue to be based on enrollment, not attendance.
- Providers who close must follow the existing procedures for filing an [Unusual Incident Report](#).

Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP)

- For closures during the activation of this policy, **payment will continue on its normal process.** Payments continue to be based on enrollment, not attendance.
- Providers who close must follow the existing procedures for filing an [Unusual Incident Report](#).

Other Providers

- **Providers not participating in public funding**
 - Providers who close must follow the existing procedures for filing an [Unusual Incident Report](#).
- **Providers who are continuing 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



Early Child Care Meal Provision Guidance

Early Child Care Meal Provision Guidance

- In the event of temporary or prolonged closures of early learning programs, **early learning providers are not required to feed children.**
- However, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and OSSE encourage early learning providers to **consider opportunities to connect children and families with healthy, low or no cost food options.**

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Meals at Open Facilities

- **CACFP participating facilities that remain open for families that continue to need child care during this time can be reimbursed for meals served to the children in their care.** The facility must continue to adhere to all CACFP requirements.
- The child must be enrolled in the CACFP using the OSSE-provided form. The form can be received through your CACFP specialist.

CACFP Meals at Closed Facilities

- Based on current United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidance, **early learning providers whose facilities are closed may not be reimbursed for meals under CACFP.**
- **OSSE remains in active conversation with USDA about potential flexibilities.** We will notify early learning providers and stakeholders of any additional updates.

Meal Options: Summer Food Service Program

- States are eligible to **operate a version of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** specifically for natural disasters, pandemics and building closures. This program allows meals to be served in school and non-school sites in a non-congregate setting (grab-and-go).
- Early learning providers that participated in SFSP in summer 2019 **may be eligible to participate** if their SFSP sponsor applies and is approved to serve meals during temporary or prolonged closures.
- Providers who participated last summer in SFSP and are interested in this opportunity **should contact their sponsor.**

Meal Options: Refer Families to Approved Meal Service Sites

- As meal service operators and sites are approved to serve meals in the event of unanticipated school or early learning program closures, OSSE and our District agency partners **will post online lists of locations approved for meal service**. Early learning providers are encouraged to share this information with families.
- Early learning providers are also **welcomed to serve meals without reimbursement from USDA or OSSE**, should they have sufficient funding and capacity to do so. Given the risk of transmission of infectious disease in group settings, early learning providers wishing to serve such meals are strongly encouraged to do so in a non-congregate setting (e.g., via grab-and-go).



Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C Provision of Early Intervention Services (Strong Start)

Early Intervention Services (Strong Start)

- Based on the emergency executive order and the issuance of a public health emergency executive order issued by the Mayor, as of March 16, 2020, **the offices of the state lead agency (OSSE) and the early intervention service (EIS) provider (Strong Start, DC's Early Intervention Program (DC EIP)) are closed** due to public health and safety concerns as a result of a COVID-19 outbreak in the area.
- As a result, **OSSE will not be providing Part C early intervention services** to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families during the period of Monday, March 16 through Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Early Intervention Services (Strong Start)

- Strong Start **playgroups** are cancelled during this period.
- **Eligibility evaluations and assessments** will not be conducted during this time.
- **Family interviews, Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings and six-month and annual IFSP reviews** can be conducted over the phone provided that both the family and the evaluation team and/or service provider team can participate.
- **All referrals received between March 14 and March 31,** will be accepted and families will be contacted and notified that a service coordinator will be assigned once the Strong Start office reopens on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.



Points of Contact

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- **Child Care Provider Closures and Public Funding**
 - Eva Laguerre, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning and Director, Licensing and Compliance
 - Eva.Laguerre@dc.gov or (202) 741-5942
- **Early Child Care Meal Provision Guidance**
 - Lindsey Palmer, Director of Nutrition Programs
 - Lindsey.Palmer@dc.gov or (202) 304-2153
- **Early Intervention Services (Strong Start)**
 - Current families: Contact your assigned service coordinator directly.
 - For referrals or general inquiries: osse.dceip@dc.gov or (202) 727-3665



Announcements



Public Comment



Wrap-Up/Next Steps/Adjourn