

Notice to Programs and Families

Re: Modifications to Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) Program Funding

On March 30, 2020, the Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) program was initiated. Under this program, organizations were allowed to operate under relaxed regulations to provide services to the children of essential personnel as defined by Executive Order 20-03-25-01. School age child care services were paid by the State of Maryland at predetermined rates based on available funding. All school age providers were informed at the time of agreeing to participate that continued funding of the program was contingent upon appropriated funds and not guaranteed.

As Maryland moves towards recovery from the closures due to the pandemic, the EPSA program will be modified consistent with changes made by Executive Order 20-05-13-01. Effective May 16, 2020, approved EPSA sites that have available space were able to accept children of parents from businesses allowed to open by Executive Order 20-05-13-01. Parents and guardians of these children will pay tuition directly to the provider. EPSA sites must continue to invoice the state for children of essential personnel until June 7, 2020.

Effective June 8, 2020, EPSA will be modified to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) no longer providing payment for child care services for essential persons. Parents will be responsible for payment for all child care services, and providers may collect tuition.

Continued funding of the EPSA program as modified here, is contingent upon appropriate funding designated for this program.

If a parent or guardian of a child chooses not to continue services with the EPSA provider the parent or guardian must disenroll the child by the close of business on June 7, 2020. To remain in the EPSA program, a provider may not charge termination or enrollment fees to parents or guardians of children who disenroll the child from care.

Note: All EPSA child care programs that were approved and provided child care for children of essential personnel between March 30, 2020 and June 7, 2020 will be paid for services delivered from the start of its participation in the EPCC program through close of business on June 7, 2020, as long as all other terms and conditions are met to qualify for payments