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State Superintendent of Schools

To: Parents/Guardians in Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) and Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) programs

From: Steven R. Hicks
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Early Childhood

Subject: Modifications to EPCC and EPSA programs Funding

Date: May 20, 2020

On behalf of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), I want to thank Maryland's many Essential Persons for your service to the state in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 30, 2020, the State began offering child care services through the Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) and Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) programs at no cost to all essential persons with children from 6 weeks to age 13. This action was taken as Maryland's response to the state of emergency to relieve Essential Persons of the burden of worrying about child care while working to address the crisis, stop the spread of the virus, and save lives.

We are now progressing to Phase I of Governor Hogan's *Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery*. Please see the attached ***Notice to Programs and Families***.

Effective Saturday, May 16, 2020, approved EPCC and EPSA sites that have available space may begin accepting children of parents from businesses newly reopened by the Governor's Executive Order Number 20-05-13-01 and subsequent Executive Orders. Parents of these children pay tuition directly to the provider. EPCC and EPSA sites must continue to invoice the state for children of essential persons until June 7, 2020.

Effective June 8, 2020, because less funding is available than initially expected, the EPCC and EPSA programs 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.

After June 7, 2020, parents eligible for the Child Care Scholarship program and needing child care services may complete and submit an application. Information can be found at earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org. Parents participating in the Child Care Scholarship program will be required to pay their co-pay to their provider. If your provider has changed, you will need to submit a change form. Please check the Maryland Excels website for approved providers at marylandexcels.org.

We understand that those in the workforce providing essential services, such as those in our hospital and health care facilities and food distribution sites, may need child care provided to continue in their roles. However, if another parent or guardian is able to stay home with your children you should do that; the safest place for their child is at home.

Thank you for helping to keep Marylanders healthy and safe during this state of emergency.

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