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State Superintendent of Schools

To: Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) and Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) Providers

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

Subject: Modifications to EPCC and EPSA Program Funding

Date: May 20, 2020

On behalf of the Maryland State Department of Education, I want to thank Maryland's child care providers, teachers and staff who agreed to deliver services for those essential persons and first responders on the front lines combatting 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.

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

Thank you for keeping Maryland's children safe and healthy every day.