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# Care 4 Kids Program



## Program Operations TRANSMITTAL


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Transmittal Number: C4K-POL-20-05

Date: September 2, 2020

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**To:** Sherri Sutera, Program Director  
Care 4 Kids Program

**From:** Beth Bye, Commissioner   
Office of Early Childhood

**CC:** Distribution List

**Subject:** Clarification on Care for School-Age Children

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**Program Issue:** The COVID-19 pandemic is presenting challenges for Connecticut families with school-age children. Public schools across the state are participating in various types of education models, which is creating hardships for parents with school-age children as those children will now require full-time care to participate in distance learning and hybrid learning models. In acknowledgement of these hardships, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) will, in accordance with federal and state requirements, enact policy changes and provide clarification to the state child care subsidy program, Care 4 Kids (C4K).

**Background:** Section 658M(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act and section 45 CFR 98.56(c) of the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) regulations prohibit spending CCDF funding for any service provided to students enrolled in grades 1 through 12 during the regular school day. The federal Office of Child Care has released guidance which allows OEC to (a) utilize CCDF funds for child care services when children are completing remote, virtual, or online schoolwork or instruction while in child care; and/or (b) utilize CCDF funds to provide full-time subsidy payment rates for school-age child care as long as OEC is not paying for time when a child is physically attending school and is not paying for any regular education services. However, CCDF funds may not be used to fund any instruction or services associated with academic credit or a school's program.

**Policy Directive:** The Care 4 Kids (C4K) program shall implement the following policy changes effective the start of the 2020-2021 academic year and beyond until otherwise modified:

### A. Definitions

For purposes of the C4K program, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Homeschool" means an educational model in which a parent or guardian accepts full responsibility for the education of the child in accordance with the requirements of State law and the child is not enrolled in a public or private school.
2. "Distance learning" means an educational model in which a child is enrolled in a public or private school, the student and instructor are in different locations during instruction and various technologies and/or print materials are used to facilitate student-teacher and student-student communication.

3. “Hybrid learning” means an educational model in which a child is enrolled in a public or private school and the curriculum and instruction are provided by such school using a combination of in-person instruction and distance learning.
4. “School Age Child” means a child who is enrolled in public or private school in grades Kindergarten through 6, a child no older than 13 years of age, or a child up to 19 years of age if the child has special needs.

#### **B. Education Models**

- If a child is in a **distance learning model**, care can be approved for a school-age child for before and after school care in addition to the hours the child is participating in educational instruction.
- If a child is in a **hybrid learning model** through their educational institution, care can be approved for the distance-learning days.
- If a child is participating in a **homeschool program**, care will not be approved during the homeschool hours.

Questions concerning this transmittal can be referred to Office of Early Childhood at 860-500-4421.

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