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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye  
Commissioner

DATE: September 14, 2020 REVISED November 19, 2020, REVISED January 15, 2021, **REVISED February 19, 2021**

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo #30 **REVISED**  
Child Care Provisions for School Age Children During COVID-19 Emergency

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) provides the following information, pursuant to [Executive Order 9](#) issued by Governor Lamont on September 4, 2020, in response to the many questions concerning the provision of child care to children whose in-person attendance at school may be altered due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency.

Revised February 19, 2021	Update: Modified language on when waiver for Remote Learning Parent Cooperative Arrangements in a Private Residence remains effective and removal of Remote School Day Learning Assistance Programs Outside of a Private Residence
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### Licensed Family Child Care Homes

Children not attending school full-time (i.e. homeschooled), count in a family child care home provider's regular capacity. For the purpose of this memo, "homeschooled" means that a child is not enrolled in a public or private school, in contrast to children who are enrolled full-time in a school and are following a school's option of in-person and/or virtual or remote learning.

Conn. Regs. Section 19a-87b-5(d)(1)(A) requires school age children who are not the provider's own children and who receive child care for three or more hours before school or three or more hours after school are counted in the regular capacity of six children. However, a waiver has been granted to allow children enrolled full-time in a public or private school who are following the school's plan for learning (in-person and/or distance learning), to attend a child care program for more than three hours a day (e.g. a full day) and be counted in the school age capacity. This allows licensed family child care home providers to care for a total of nine children for a full day, including three school age children.

### Licensed Child Care Centers and Group Child Care Homes

Programs may serve children who are enrolled in school full time while they are distance learning provided they remain within the program's licensed capacity and the program has an

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endorsement to serve school age children. The [Notification of Change form](#) to request a school age endorsement may be found on the OEC website. Programs may also use this form to request approval of space that has not previously been inspected and approved for use.

#### Licensed Youth Camps

Day camps may remain operating according to [Memo #18 REVISED, Youth Camp Guidance](#). Camps may report a change in operating days by completing the [Report of Change form](#) found on the OEC website.

#### Child Care Operations Exempt from Licensure

Programs administered by a public school system or municipality are exempt from licensing, but must otherwise follow all rules established by other laws, regulations, executive orders, and requirements for public schools as applicable. A public school system or municipality may employ another entity to conduct the daily operation of its program; however the public school system or municipality must retain ultimate responsibility for the management and oversight of the program and for the program staff and the children served. It is recommended that these arrangements be confirmed in writing and document:

- what entity (e.g. Board of Education) administers the respective program; and
- that such entity retains ultimate responsibility for the management and oversight of such program, for the staff employed at the program and the children attending the program.

A program exempt from licensing is required to inform parents that such program is not licensed by the OEC.

#### Remote Learning Parent Cooperative Arrangements in a Private Residence

The OEC encourages families to consider the importance of providing children the structure and resources that in-person school provides, and/or the safe oversight licensed childcare or camp supervision offers. However, in light of the unique circumstances presented by the pandemic, remote learning parent cooperative arrangements have arisen where neighbors and friends are establishing “learning pods” to support remote learning for children following their public school district or private school remote learning option, with parental supervision during school hours in private residences. Where such private cooperatives are established and the families do not pursue child care licensing, operation without a license is permitted, when all of the following conditions are met, during the period of the declared state of emergency unless earlier modified or terminated;

- (1) all students are enrolled in kindergarten or above in a public or private school and following such school’s plan for remote learning;
- (2) the total number of children in the residence at any one time during the school day shall not exceed 9 children;
- (3) the supervision and care is provided in a private residence;
- (4) the supervision and care is provided only during the hours of the school day;
- (5) parent(s) are not compensated for such care;
- (6) at least one parent or guardian of a participating child is on-site at all times.

These cooperatives may employ a non-custodial individual to support remote learning but only during the hours of the regular school day and in addition to the on-site presence of a parent or guardian.

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These cooperatives are not permitted to provide such care and supervision without a license before or after the regular school day nor during school vacations. Children younger than school age are only permitted at the location where such care is being provided if such children reside at such residence.

Ongoing Requirements in All Child Care Settings to Prevent COVID-19 Transmission

All licensed and license exempt child care programs, including parent cooperative arrangements, youth camps and before/after school programs, **must follow the enhanced COVID-19 requirements** put forth by the OEC and outlined in memos found on the [OEC COVID resource page](#).

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect the health and safety of Connecticut's children.

Expired