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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

TO: All District Superintendents

FROM: Commissioner Miguel A. Cardona
Commissioner Beth Bye

RE: Federally Funded Early Childhood Programs

DATE: July 1, 2020

The following memorandum is to provide clarity regarding state and federally funded early childhood programs (ECE Programs) in light of the recent State Department of Education (SDE) School Reopening Guidance issued on June 29, 2020.

As public schools reopen and in-person educational programs resume, SDE and the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) recognize the many challenges public schools face in meeting all public health requirements. Specifically, it is recognized that school districts may have challenges providing adequate space for social distancing efforts and as a result, are problem solving how to best solve these issues.

While SDE and OEC recognize these challenges, we also want to ensure that young children do not lose access to early education opportunities, and that families do not lose access to programs vital for their economic survival. Preschool and child care are fundamental components of both Connecticut's education system and for economic recovery.

To ensure sufficient capacity of ECE programs during the reopening of public school classes, school districts should maintain adequate space in public school buildings for state funded ECE Programs and Family Resource Centers that are located in public schools. We prefer that districts maintain all preschool programs, including district funded, but we understand that districts face many fiscal challenges. Accordingly, we are focused on programs funded by state and federal funds.

If it is not possible to maintain space in the public school setting, adequate space in another building within the district or community should be provided to accommodate state funded ECE Programs and Family Resource Centers.

We thank you for your cooperation and dedication during these challenging times. You may contact SDE or OEC with any questions.

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