

## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Emergency Closures due to Hurricane Irma**

### ***Will I be paid for my VPK children for the days my program was closed?***

Yes, you are eligible to receive VPK funding for the days of your temporary emergency closure for any child that returns to your VPK program when you reopen. (**We must have the dates that you closed and the date that you reopened in writing.**)

*6M-8.204 Uniform Attendance Policy for Funding the VPK Program states that a temporary closure caused by emergency circumstances is not payable for any student who does not attend a VPK instructional day following the closure. (This means any day after the closure not only the first day after you reopen.)*

### ***Will I be paid for my School Readiness children for the days my program is closed?***

Yes, you are eligible to receive the normal School Readiness rate for SR children enrolled in your program for the dates of your temporary emergency closure. (**We must have the dates that you closed and the date that you reopened in writing.**)

### ***What constitutes a “temporary emergency closure?”***

As per rule 6M-8.204 Uniform Attendance Policy for Funding the VPK Program, a closure is temporary if the provider resumes instruction following the closure. It is caused by emergency circumstances when a state of emergency is declared by federal, state or local officials for the area in which the provider is located. A state of emergency was declared in anticipation of Hurricane Irma.

### ***Do I need to make up the VPK program hours that I missed due to Hurricane Irma?***

Since a state of emergency was declared, it will not be necessary for you to make up the hours missed as long as you are closed for 5 days or less due to the emergency. You will need to do a calendar change if you were closed for 6 or more days. Please notify staff when you have submitted your calendar change through the OEL provider portal.

### ***How do I notify the Early Learning Coalition of my program’s emergency closure?***

Please submit to Bluejean, a written statement detailing the dates you were closed due to hurricane Irma as well as the date you reopened. **Please note:** if this statement is incomplete or is not available in Bluejean, it will delay the processing of your September attendance.

### ***How should I complete my attendance for the days my program was closed due to Hurricane Irma?***

If you closed on September 8, you will need to use a “D” to indicate your closure. September 11 and September 12 are already designated with a “D”. Any other days that you are closed related to Hurricane Irma, select “D”. Please make sure this letter is used only for dates you have indicated on the documentation submitted to the ELC through Bluejean regarding your closure for the hurricane. **The “D” code is to be used to mark both VPK and School Readiness children for whom you will be paid.**

As stated above, you are eligible to be paid for a VPK child on the closure days only if the child returns to your program any day following the emergency closure. Please keep this in mind when completing your attendance.