



Dear SR and VPK Providers:

The Department of Education and the Office of Early Learning are committed to providing up-to-date information and guidance to our early learning community to address concerns of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The health and safety of our children, families, and providers' staff is of utmost importance.

We strongly recommend:

- You adhere to the [CDC's March 15, 2020 Interim Guidance](#) for higher-risk populations by limiting children and employees to **no more than 10 people** in a single occupied space.
- You should also continuously monitor CDC guidance and to fully comply with all directives.

On March 17, Governor DeSantis held a press conference and DOE issued a [press release](#) detailing our efforts to:

- Ensure that all SR and VPK providers receive their funding – which means we will pay/reimburse for additional child absences when the provider is open and for those that occur during **temporary** closures.
- Eliminate all requirements for remaining child screenings/assessments or provider program assessments for the 2019-20 program year.
- Extend timelines for provider improvement plans and reports.

For families, we are:

- Suspending termination of SR eligibility.
- Extending the timelines for redetermination of SR eligibility.
- Waiving parent copays/fees for all eligible SR families regardless of their income.

We hope you can see that we are dedicated to ensuring that childcare providers will be able to financially support their day-to-day operations, **including paying teachers**. We will work with your coalition to provide more details related to implementation, and request that you do not make changes to your current SR or VPK calendars at this time. If you have additional questions, please contact your early learning coalition.

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