

July 28, 2020,

To: Congregate Care Providers supporting DCS youth

From: Mike Faust, Director

Re: Return to In-Person school

The importance of assisting our youth in achieving their educational goals cannot be overstated. With the manner in which last school year ended and the transitions to remote learning, restarting this academic year is more important than ever. For those children and youth requiring additional assistance or those working to catch up with their peers, identifying the best academic delivery model that meets their needs is hugely important.

Depending on the school district you are in, the solution for educational instruction will vary. Furthering that challenge, not all schools will be restarting at the same time. We hope you were able to hear the Governor's message on July 23rd that public schools must offer free, in-person virtual learning solutions to support emergency responders, those in the community that require supports to work and also to support those children in need of structured learning environments. The Governor specifically addressed the need for children in care to have an in person learning option.

As a standard, the Department expects children living in congregate care programs to attend in-person virtual instruction beginning August 17th and to attend in-person teacher-led instruction when schools return to full in-person instruction. Children and youth are seeking normalcy and although the educational delivery will be different for portions of this academic year, children benefit from the engagement associated with structured learning environments.

The Department will provide financial support to compensate for additional supervision of youth during regular school hours from August 3rd through August 14th for those programs utilizing the local public school. The financial support will mimic the spring semester with \$200 per weekday depending on the number of DCS licensed beds per property.

Those programs that operated a charter school or utilized online learning as an educational solution prior to March 15, 2020 may continue to do so. In the event a program would like to alter their educational delivery model to utilize their own charter school or utilize online learning must receive approval from the DCS Director prior to doing so.

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School Districts have been ensuring the equipment needs for children are being met. Should equipment be damaged the [Provider Indemnity Program](#) is available for children in care.

Thank you for all that you do and we appreciate your support in meeting the educational needs of children in care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Faust". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mike Faust
Director

CC:
DHS Licensing
DCS – Office of Licensing and Regulation
DDD – Office of Credentialing, Licensing and Regulation

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