

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Workforce Development Letter

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| ID/No: | WD 17-20 |
| Date: | August 21, 2020 |
| Keyword: | Child Care; Natural Disaster |
| Effective: | Immediately |

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Commission Executive Offices
Integrated Service Area Managers



From: Allison Wilson for Reagan Miller, Director, Child Care & Early Learning Division

Subject: **Child Care for School-Age Children during COVID-19**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this WD Letter is to provide Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with guidance on child care reimbursements for school-age children during the COVID-19 global pandemic (COVID-19).

RESCISSIONS:

None

BACKGROUND:

Because of the impact of COVID-19, Texas school districts are considering alternative instructional models for the 2020–2021 school year, including implementation of all-virtual instruction as well as a combination of virtual and in-person instruction. These models will have an impact on child care.

The federal Office of Child Care has issued a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) document that provides states with the flexibility to develop Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) subsidy policies for school-age children who are also engaged in remote educational instruction. However, CCDBG prohibits the use of Child Care Development Funds (CCDF) to support any instruction or services associated with academic credit or a school's program.

On August 20, 2020, the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) three-member Commission (Commission) established the policy for how TWC and Boards will reimburse child care providers, based on whether schools are physically open for in-person child care.

PROCEDURES:

No Local Flexibility (NLF): This rating indicates that Boards must comply with the federal and state laws, rules, policies, and required procedures set forth in this WD Letter and have

no local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to comply. All information with an NLF rating is indicated by “must” or “shall.”

Local Flexibility (LF): This rating indicates that Boards have local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to implement guidance or recommended practices set forth in this WD Letter. All information with an LF rating is indicated by “may” or “recommend.”

Limited Authorization of Full-Time Child Care for School-Age Children

NLF: Boards must be aware that when in-person learning is unavailable, parents may request full-time child care for school-age children. Boards must authorize full-time care based on documented need that the child’s school is unavailable for in-person learning and that the parent has requested full-time care.

NLF: Boards must be aware that when in-person learning is available, full-time child care for school-age children may not be authorized. Boards must authorize part-time or blended care for school-age children when in-person learning is available at the child’s school. Boards must not authorize full-time child care if the option of in-person learning is available to the family but the family has chosen remote learning only.

NLF: Boards must be aware that if in-person learning is not available because of an unplanned COVID-19-related school closure and the family requests full-time child care, Boards must authorize full-time care, based on the needs of the family.

Limitation on Educational Services for Remote Learning for School-Age Children

NLF: Boards must not expend CCDF funds on regular education services and supports. Specifically, Boards are prohibited from using CCDF funds for any of the following:

- Technology intended primarily for supporting remote learning for school-age children
- Educational materials, supplies, or supports intended primarily for supporting remote learning for school-age children
- Reimbursements to providers for remote or eLearning fees for school-age children engaged in remote learning

LF: TWC recommends that Boards contact their local school districts to learn more about education funding available to help support remote learning for school-age children. More information is also available on the [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) Operation Connectivity website](#).

INQUIRIES:

Send inquiries regarding this WD Letter to childcare.programassistance@twc.state.tx.us.

REFERENCES:

- [CCDF Frequently Asked Questions in Response to COVID-19 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#)
- [TWC Chapter 809 Child Care Services Rules](#)
- [TEA Operation Connectivity](#)