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MEMO

**TO: Superintendents & Charter Directors**

**FROM: Secretary Dr. Ryan Stewart, Public Education Department  
Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky, Early Childhood Education and Care Department**

**DATE: July 24, 2020**

**RE: Child Care & Child Supervision Supports During Remote and Hybrid Models**

As we prepare for reentry next month in a remote model, both NM Public Education Department (PED) and NM Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD) are working together to provide technical assistance and resources to all school districts and charter schools as they support their students' families, and their educators, in accessing child care and child supervision programs during remote and hybrid models.

PED has also contracted with Regional Cooperative Centers (RECs) to provide each school district and state charter school a point of contact who will work with you to identify the child care and child supervision needs of your staff and your community. Please note that even if your school district or state charter school does not currently have an assigned REC, you will still have a point of contact from an REC to support you with this work. Your REC point of contact will reach out to you in early August.

PED will administer a family survey across the state in late July to ask families about their childcare and child supervision needs, which will be administered in English, Spanish and Dine. Using the data from this survey, RECs will reach out to all districts and state charter schools to explore and identify childcare options in your community, and they will share this information with both PED and ECECD to help develop a plan of support for your school community. **The RECs will develop these plans on your behalf and will submit them to PED no later than September 15, 2020.**

ECECD and PED are collaborating to provide the following supports to school district and charter leaders. Please consider which supports best suit the needs of your local communities. We are here to help you as we do this work together on behalf of our children. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Harper at PED at [Jessica.harper@state.nm.us](mailto:Jessica.harper@state.nm.us).

- **License satellite child care locations at schools:** Local school boards and governing councils can partner with a local child care program in their community that is rated 3-Star or higher (as determined by ECECD) to temporarily license a satellite location at their schools for students 12 years of age and younger. Staffing would be provided by the partnering child care program, not the district or charter school. Click [here](#) for list of child care programs by school district.

New Mexico families with an annual income of \$52,400 or less (200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)) may be eligible to receive child care assistance. If a family is not eligible, the cost will need to be paid for by the employee/family. The state is currently in the process of securing additional funds to support care. If granted, these funds will also be available to support the cost of child care and will limit the out-of-pocket expenses for families.

- **Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care:** If a family has someone their student can stay with during their online education days and the family is eligible for child care assistance, ECECD can provide financial support to that individual through our Family, Friend and Neighbor Care option. FFN Care must be registered through ECECD, and all members of the household in which care is provided are required to complete a background check. Districts or charter schools interested in promoting this option in their community will be asked to conduct an outreach plan to advertise this opportunity. RECs will be available to support the district or charter school to conduct this outreach.
- **Operate child supervision locations at schools:** Local school boards and governing councils can develop policies and procedures to operate their own localized child supervision programs for the children of their employees. Schools are exempt from child care licensing when they operate their own programs governed by the local school board/governing council. Staffing must be provided by the district or charter school.
  - Cost: The state is currently in the process of securing additional child care funds. If granted, these funds will be available to support the cost of child care and to limit expenses to the LEA. Apart from this potential funding source, this cost would have to be paid for by either the employee/family or by the school or district.
- **Expand 21<sup>st</sup> Century Service Hours:** For those communities with 21<sup>st</sup> Century sites (see map by clicking [here](#)). Students from pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, including those with disabilities, can attend all-day when they are not at school.
  - Cost: approximately \$700 for 36 weeks for 2 days per week; note that this cost is based on averages and is subsidized by 21<sup>st</sup> Century federal funds. The state is currently in the process of securing additional child care support funds. If granted, these funds will be available to support the cost of child care and will limit out-of-pocket for employees or families. Any remaining cost would have to be paid for by either the employee/family.