

This is a message from the California Department of Education (CDE), Early Learning and Care Division (ELCD).

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## **COVID-19 Management Bulletin Guidance to the Field**

Since the beginning of the declared State of Emergency, the CDE, ELCD has issued eight (8) Management Bulletins (MB) and three (3) MB revisions. These MBs are aimed at sharing new, waived, or modified requirements for early learning and care (ELC) service contractors. The ELCD appreciates the ELC field's hard work responding to the challenges that COVID-19 has presented and adapting to the directives that the Legislature and the Governor's administration charged the CDE with implementing while continuing to serve children and their families.

Many of the COVID-19 MBs were based on statutory authority from Senate Bill (SB) 117, which expires June 30, 2020. As a result, there will be some areas where guidance issued over the last several months will now revert back to existing regulatory and statutory requirements. Additionally, the 2020-21 Budget Act (Assembly Bill [AB] 89) and Education Omnibus Trailer Bill (Senate Bill [SB] 98) give the CDE new authority for COVID-19 response in some areas. The CDE will be issuing guidance on those areas in MBs as specified below.

This guidance serves to share with the field:

- Specific MBs that have expired effective July 1, 2020
- Requirements for contractors reverting back to Pre-COVID guidance
- Additional upcoming MBs from CDE

### **Management Bulletins to be Rescinded**

Effective July 1, 2020 the following MBs have expired and will no longer be in effect:

- **MB 20-04A:** COVID-19 Guidance on Apportionment, Attendance, and Reporting Requirements – Amendment
- **MB 20-05:** COVID-19 Guidance: Temporary Waiver of Family Fees
- **MB 20-07:** COVID-19 Guidance to California Resource and Referral Programs and Local Planning Councils
- **MB 20-08A:** COVID-19 Guidance on Procurement and Audits – Amendment
- **MB 20-09:** COVID-19 Guidance on Program Self-Evaluation, Contract Monitoring, and Program Quality Requirements
- **MB 20-10:** COVID-19 Guidance regarding Family Child Care Home Education Networks
- **MB 20-11:** COVID-19 Guidance: Emergency Closures

(Note: MB 20-06a will be in effect through August 28, 2020)

## COVID-19 Requirements Reverting Back to Pre-COVID Guidance

The following requirements are now back to pre-pandemic guidance:

Pandemic COVID-19 Policy	Policy After July 1, 2020 (FY 2020-21)
Fiscal and attendance reporting requirements extended	The fiscal and attendance reporting requirements are now on a typical schedule and there is no extension provided.
Dual Provider Payments for Alternative Payment Programs	Providers serving children in the Alternative Payment Programs will no longer be paid for thirty days of closure in addition to their 10 non-operation days. Providers will only be paid for days of service and for their 10 non-operation days.
Attendance records and/or invoices; signatures for AP providers reimbursement	The monthly attendance records and/or invoices to the parent and provider must be signed by the parent and the provider. ( <i>Education Code [EC] 8221.5</i> )
Data collection from AP Contractors and County Welfare Departments on dual provider payments and variable schedules	This specific data collection is not continuing, though there will be new data collection requirements implemented as part of the 2020-21 Budget Act.
Family Fees Waived	As of July 1, 2020, Family Fees must be assessed and collected in accordance with MB 20-13 ( <i>EC 8273</i> ). This includes families enrolled in the Essential Worker Child Care program.
Emergency Childcare services, enrollment of at-risk populations, children of essential workers, and children with disabilities or other special health care needs that do not meet need and eligibility requirements as specified in <i>EC</i> Section 8263.	As of July 1, 2020, no new families may be enrolled in Emergency Childcare. Only families/children that meet the eligibility and need requirements set forth in <i>EC 8263</i> may be enrolled. (The CDE will issue guidance on continuing to serve families in the Emergency Childcare program after June 30, 2020).
Ratios	Ratios for direct service contractors will return to what is required in 5 <i>CCR</i> 18290 through 18292.

<b>Pandemic COVID-19 Policy</b>	<b>Policy After July 1, 2020 (FY 2020-21)</b>
Waiver of Teacher definition	The teacher definition for direct service contractors will return to what is required in <i>EC 8208 (a-f)</i>
California Preventative Health and Safety Practices training hubs to prioritize training for those serving essential workers	These hubs are no longer required to prioritize providers serving essential worker families.
Program Self-Evaluation suspension	Program self-evaluation will be in effect for FY 2020-21, but no retroactive self-evaluation for 2019-20 will be required (5 <i>CCR 18279</i> ).
Parent conferences suspension	Parent conferences are no longer suspended (5 <i>CCR 18275</i> ).
Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) suspension	The ERS requirements resume for the 2020-21 program year (5 <i>CCR 18281</i> ).
Developmental Profile of Desired Results System	The profile requirements resume for the 2020-21 program year. (5 <i>CCR 18272</i> )

## **Fiscal Year 2020-21 COVID-19 New Guidance to the Field**

On June 29, 2020, Governor Newsom signed AB 89, the Budget Act of 2020-21, and SB 98, the Education Omnibus Trailer Bill. While the MBs listed above expired on June 30, 2020, some of the directives from them will continue, or continue in slightly different form, due to the Budget Act.

To implement the 2020-21 Budget Act provisions around COVID-19 and other needed guidance within CDE's existing authority, the CDE will be releasing MBs covering the following topics:

- Guidance regarding a fiscal hold harmless, navigating local rules regarding ratios and group size, emergency closures, and distance learning guidance for direct service contracts.
- Guidance regarding a fiscal hold harmless for AP providers by reimbursing at the certified need
- Guidance regarding how families currently enrolled in Emergency Childcare can continue to be served and how eligible families will be prioritized for transition into longer-term early learning and care programs

- Guidance regarding Resource and Referral agencies and Local Planning Councils
- Guidance regarding extending certain procurement provisions of MB 20-08a, in a reissued MB or other guidance.

**Contractors are hereby advised not to create new policies or practices to implement the provisions of the Budget Act listed above under “New Guidance to the Field” until they receive MB directives from the ELCD.**