

## Frequently Asked Questions for Temporary Pandemic School-Age Child Care Centers

### *General Licensing*

**1. What types of child care programs can care for school-age children during the school day?**

The following child care program types can be licensed/approved/certified to care for school-age children: child care center, temporary pandemic school-age child care center, family child care home, in-home aide.

**2. Who needs to get a temporary pandemic school age license?**

Organizations such as churches, recreation centers, and businesses that are providing care to school age children during the school day while remote learning is being administered should apply for this temporary license.

**3. What do I need to do to open a new temporary pandemic school-age child care center?**

The application process consists of the following:

- Complete a professional registry profile through the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR).
- Register and complete the required pre-licensing training for child care centers.
- Complete a child care center application online in the Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS) and answer “yes” to the question “**Are you applying for a temporary pandemic school-age child care center license?**”.
  - a. Administrator qualifications and food service documentation are not due at the time of application.
  - b. No registration fee is required.
- Secure a building approval and fire inspection

Follow the instructions for opening a new center on this webpage:

<https://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/openingachildcareprogram.stm>.

**4. If I want to add a school-age classroom in my center, do I follow the temporary pandemic school-age child care center rules?**

No, a new classroom at an existing licensed child care center will follow the Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 5101:2-12 rules excluding the temporary pandemic school-age child care center rule.

**5. Can I open a temporary pandemic school-age child care center at my current location where I am licensed as a center or family child care program?**

No, you cannot have two licensed programs at the same address, but you can expand your current program (increase capacity, add a space, etc.).

**6. Can I be a licensed temporary pandemic school-age child care center and only be private pay?**

Yes. It is a business decision if your program completes a provider agreement and provides publicly funded child care (PFCC). Follow the provider portal instructions found here if you want to serve PFCC: <https://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CCIDS.stm>.

**7. I am not currently a licensed program. If I want to care for school-age children in my home who are learning remotely, do I need to be licensed?**

A home provider can care for six or fewer children, with no more than three under the age of two, and not be licensed. However, the home provider has to be licensed as a family child care home provider if they want to provide publicly funded child care.

**8. My neighborhood is setting up a pod at someone's house with other neighborhood children to help facilitate remote learning, do we need a temporary pandemic school-age center license?**

No, the license is only for businesses looking to provide a clean and safe environment for school age children during remote learning. If the children are not able to come and go from the location freely, then the home may need to be licensed as a family child care provider.

**9. Can I be an administrator on a temporary pandemic school-age child care center license if I am the administrator on a license for a program that only operates before and after school?**

Yes, the administrator must meet the on-site time requirements at both programs.

### *Publicly Funded Child Care*

**1. What types of learning are there?**

- *Remote learning* – learning when a child is not physically present in a school building. This could be watching live classes on a computer, using online resources or using paper assignments provided by the child's school.
- *In-person* – physically present at school
- *Hybrid* – combination of remote and in-person

**2. Will ODJFS pay for school-age children during the normal school day?**

If a program is providing publicly funded child care, they will receive payment for school-age children who are determined eligible for PFCC during the time they are participating in remote learning as outlined on the TA document titled "Recording School-Age Attendance for Publicly Funded Child Care in the Time Attendance and Payment System COVID-19 Pandemic".

**3. Will ODJFS continue to pay for school-age children determined eligible for PFCC attending before and after school care?**

Yes, ODJFS will continue to pay for before and after school-age care even if the parent opted out of the in-person or hybrid models.

4. **Can a temporary pandemic school-age child care center offer before and after school care for a child who is participating in the in-person learning model?**

Yes.

5. **If a family had a choice to send their school-age child to school and participate in in-person learning but opted out and instead sent them to my program, will I receive reimbursement for care provided during the school-day?**

No, ODJFS will only pay for PFCC when families are determined eligible and are required to participate in remote learning, including the remote portion of a hybrid school model, while in care.

6. **A child is participating in the hybrid learning model, but the parent opted out of sending the child to school in-person on the two/three assigned days of the week. What days is the provider not permitted to bill for publicly funded child care?**

ODJFS will not pay for child care during the normal school day when the parent chose to keep the child out of school. Providers will need to create a customized schedule that deducts the hours that the child was able to attend school and the parent chose not to.

Please refer to the technical assistance document titled “Recording School-Age Attendance for Publicly Funded Child Care in the Time Attendance and Payment System COVID-19 Pandemic” on the provider pandemic webpage here:

<https://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcare/>.

7. **The child’s school is a hybrid model requiring both in-person and remote learning. The parent opted out of the hybrid model and sends the child to care on the days they should have participated in-person. Can I charge the parent for the days they did not send their child to in-person learning?**

ODJFS will not pay for publicly funded child care on the days the child could have been engaging in in-person learning as part of the hybrid model. Rule 5101:2-16-09 allows a program to charge the family if the child’s attendance exceeds the child’s category of authorization.

8. **Does the provider need to obtain any documentation from the family?**

Yes. The provider should ask the family for documentation from the school that identifies what method of learning the school-age child is participating in and their assigned schedule. Examples of documentation include e-mails, letters, or information found on the school districts website. All documentation should include either the schools logo or the superintendents/principals signature and would have the parents or child’s name in either the body of the e-mail/letter or the e-mail of the parent, if possible. This documentation will help the provider know what hours can be billed for child care.

9. **What rate will programs be paid?**

Per OAC Chapter 5101:2-16, the school-age rate will be paid during the school year which is defined as the first Sunday in September to the last Saturday in May. Child care provided outside of this rule defined school year, will be paid the summer school-age rate.

**10. If a child was typically home-schooled, can the provider get paid for providing child care during the normal school day?**

No, this does not include homeschooling as this is the same as selecting only remote learning when in-person or a hybrid was available.

**11. How can child care programs support remote learning?**

Child care programs should provide a safe, clean space for children to engage in their remote learning (i.e. table to sit with their computer to work on school lessons), that is prepared and delivered by the K-12 school teacher. Child care staff can support and supervise school-age children while engaged in school. For example, helping children navigate to appropriate applications or answering questions (i.e. help on math operations or sounding out words).

**12. What are programs not permitted to be paid for during remote learning?**

Child care programs are not permitted to be paid for preparing or delivering direct instruction or educational services to school-age children who are following their school districts remote or hybrid learning model. Programs are not permitted to receive payment when duplicating or supplanting funds. For example, a child care program cannot be paid for time a child care teacher provides instruction in math instead of it being provided by the school.

**13. What is considered duplicating or supplanting funds?**

Supplanting funds means when one payment source takes the place of another payment source. Regular education services provided by the school district, for which students receive academic credit toward graduation, is paid by one funding source. Child care is paid for by a different funding source. Child care cannot pay for any direct instruction or services prepared and delivered by the school district. For example, a child care teacher cannot use a curriculum, create a lesson plan or instruct on a topic the child was given by the school district during the school day.

**14. If a parent had the option to send their school-age child to in-person learning at school but has medical documentation recommending the child participate in remote learning instead, will the time this school-age child is participating in remote learning while in child care be paid for?**

There are no exceptions to the rule. PFCC payment will not be provided for any care when the child should be attending school in-person.

**15. How do I enter school schedules into the time, attendance and payment (TAP) system?**

See the technical assistance document titled “Recording School-Age Attendance and Schedules During the COVID-19 Pandemic” on the provider pandemic webpage here: <https://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcare/>.

*Step Up To Quality*

- 1. Does my temporary pandemic school-age child care center have to be Step Up To Quality rated to provide publicly funded child care?**

Temporary pandemic school-age child care centers are exempt from being Step Up To Quality rated during their 12-month provisional period.

- 2. I am a Step Up To Quality rated program. Does my school-age classroom have to meet the SUTQ standards during the time school-age children are in attendance during the school day?**

No. The school-age classroom does not have to meet the SUTQ standards during the time the school district is operating. However, the classroom does need to continue to meet SUTQ standards for before and after school care.