

March 19, 2020

TO: School District Superintendents  
School Principals  
BOCES District Superintendents  
School District Business Officers  
Special Education Directors  
Charter School Leaders

FROM: Kathleen DeCataldo

RE: Child Care Plans

Schools are an important part of the community and are charged with the care and instruction of a community's youngest members. Therefore, during a public health emergency, schools and districts are integral parts of a state's emergency response plan. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 202.4, school districts in NYS are required to establish and submit plans for the care of children of essential personnel across a wide array of critical professions and occupations that are necessary to protect and support the public. The list below is intended as an illustration and guide, but not an exhaustive list of professions or occupations eligible for prioritized childcare.

- x Essential health care workers may include licensed health professionals such as physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, registered nurses, nurse assistants, laboratory personnel, and pharmacists

The NYS Education Department, working in partnership with the Department of Health, the Office of Children and Family Services and other agencies will work with local school districts as they implement these mission necessary centers to ensure that our appropriate essential personnel have their childcare covered. We are also actively working with leaders in the nonprofit and social service sector to identify additional supports and resources that may be provided.

Districts are strongly encouraged to build upon the myriad of projects and partnerships with existing community based organizations (CBOs) that are already licensed through the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) when developing their childcare plans.

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