

Policy Communiqué # 12-04: Child Care Subsidy for Required Online Classes at an Accredited College/University when the Parent/Caretaker must be Online during Specifically Scheduled Times.

This is a message from the Division of Policy.

Title: Child Care Subsidy for Required Online Classes at an Accredited College/University when the Parent/Caretaker must be Online during Specifically Scheduled Times.

Date: 3/1/2012

Priority: Medium

Category: Informational

Action Required: Yes, see "Next Steps" below

Response Required: No

Purpose:

The purpose of this communiqué is to provide Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agencies with clarification on the policy and procedures related to eligibility for child care subsidy for formal online classes at accredited colleges/universities requiring the parent/caretaker (p/c) to be online during specifically scheduled times.

Background:

With the growth of technology and receipt of verification from colleges/universities now requiring certain classes to be taken online at regularly scheduled times, the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) decided to revise its policy concerning online classes. This coincides with the Office of Income Maintenance's (OIM) recent decision to begin updating its policy to accept these online classes as approved Employment and Training (E&T) activities. OCDEL's new revisions will support OIM's updated policies so a parent/caretaker (p/c) may have child care while participating in a required online class at an accredited college/university during a specifically scheduled time.

Discussion:

Effective immediately, CCISs must pay for child care for approved training at accredited colleges/universities that require a formal class be taken online at a specifically scheduled time. The p/c must provide clear documentation from the college/university that indicates the class is required and lists the specific days and hours the p/c is expected to be online for the class throughout the semester. Payment will not be made for online classes that do not have a specific schedule and can be taken at anytime.

This policy is effective for all subsidy recipients including those who are receiving child care under the Low Income (LI), Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (FS/SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Former TANF (FT) child care programs.

REMINDER: Only a p/c receiving subsidy under the TANF child care program is eligible for child care during CAO-approved study time.

Next Steps:

1. Share this information with appropriate staff.
2. Direct questions to your Subsidy Coordinator.