



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

On behalf of Governor Larry Hogan, thank you for contacting us regarding child care. After reviewing your correspondence, Governor Hogan asked the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to respond to you on his behalf, as well as on behalf of our fellow state agencies. The MSDE understands this is a challenging time for both parents and child care providers.

On June 5, 2020, as the State enters Stage Two of the *Maryland Strong: The Road to Recovery*, the number of businesses allowed to reopen is expanding across the state, and parents who work in these businesses will now have access to child care. To help meet this increased demand, the Maryland State Department of Education will continue to expand our open child care sites, increasing the total number of available slots across the state.

We are constantly updating our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for parents, which provides helpful information on a variety of topics, including how to locate available child care. That information may be found at:

https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/faqs_parents_maryland_together_marylands_recovery_plan_for_child_care_final.5_20_2020.pdf.

FAQs for child care providers may be found at:

https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/faqs_providers_maryland_together_marylands_recovery_plan_for_child_care_final.5_20_2020.pdf

You may also be interested in our new draft publication, *Maryland Together: Maryland's Recovery Plan for Child Care*, which can be found at: <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers-serving-essential-personnel>.

The plan provides general direction to child care providers and assistance to parents in finding care for their children. The plan also includes guidance based on our collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health on how to safely operate during the pandemic. If you have suggestions on the draft, please send them to: earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov.

We are grateful for the service of our child care providers, teachers, and staff and will continue to strive to provide the support they need to care for Maryland's children and support working families. Please know that your concerns regarding child care are important to the Governor, and he truly appreciates that you have reached out to him.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Hicks
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Early Childhood