



Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program Updates

Justin Dayhoff -MSDE- <justin.dayhoff@maryland.gov>
To: Justin Dayhoff -MSDE- <justin.dayhoff@maryland.gov>

Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 9:46 PM

Dear Child Care Scholarship Program Provider Community,

As promised, MSDE will continue to issue updates heading into the previously announced Child Care Scholarship (CCS) program policy changes, which begin to roll out in January. The Department remains committed to its January rollout and will begin deploying the technical updates necessary to MSDE systems starting this week and throughout January as planned.

What happens with the Service Period ending January 2 and when are payments coming in January?

There will be **two** initial payments in early January (these will be spread out over the first approximately two and a half weeks of January):

1. One payment will be for the December service period ending January 2;
2. One payment will be the first "Advanced Payment" - which will arrive roughly mid month.

There will then be a *third* payment in January in the second half of the month for the second half of the Advanced Payment. When MSDE systems begin generating the first advanced payment, MSDE will also issue individual emails with payment amount information.

Normally, there will be two payments each month - one at the beginning and one in the second half of the month. January will be a little different with three payments to accommodate the transition to advanced payments.

Will there still be invoices?

Yes. Providers will still need to sign the invoices and submit attendance. Attendance does not impact payment amount but we do need to collect attendance and have a signed invoice. We need to do so first, because of existing regulations, and second to, for example, make sure the State does not continue to pay for a student who is absent more than 60 days.

Again, the attendance/invoices are still required but will 1) not affect MSDE issuing advanced payment; and 2) not affect the amount of payments since MSDE is paying based on receipted scholarship enrollment and not on attendance.

Invoice Detail Reports

One common question MSDE has received is: "will we have the same detailed invoice reports to ensure proper accounting of children and allocation of Child Care Scholarship (CCS) program funds accurately?"

Yes! MSDE might be changing payments to pay providers in advance of rather than after providing services to children, but the structures you are used to will remain mostly consistent.

Audits Monthly Rather than Every Other Week

Because service periods are now monthly, audits are now cut in half from 24 each year to 12 each year. MSDE is attempting to reduce the frequency further but as of January, it will be half (monthly).

Different Months with Different Calendar Days

MSDE will be calculating payments based on days rather than weeks to ensure that MSDE continues to pay properly, even when months contain different amounts of days in the given service period. The invoice detail report should also continue to be helpful.

We will continue to issue updates throughout January so please look out for more. We wish you and yours a joyous and happy New Year!

Best,

Justin



Justin Dayhoff (He/Him)

Assistant State Superintendent
Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy

O: (410) 767-0439

C: (443) 257-8767

justin.dayhoff@maryland.gov

200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

marylandpublicschools.org



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