



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

October 16, 2020

Dear Providers:

Every licensed child care provider in Maryland has the opportunity to earn a total of **5 PAUs** to help the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) reach families across the state. MSDE is working with Child Trends, a national leader in education research, to find out the effects of COVID-9 on children and families. **How can you earn a total of 5 PAUs?**

Tell your families about the survey and ask them to provide their email address to you for MSDE to provide a direct link to the survey. Let your families know:

1. The survey is being used to develop policies, procedures and coordinate funding opportunities across the state of Maryland, for all families.
2. The survey is being conducted by a reputable and highly recognized research group who will provide the findings to MSDE in a consolidated report that will not have any identifying information.
3. This survey will inform the efforts for the future of child care in Maryland.
4. Each and every family's voice needs to be heard so we can fully understand the impacts on families and children across each county in Maryland.

If you provide MSDE a list of every family in your program, the person identified as coordinating the effort will be awarded 2 PAUs. Email the following items to money4childcare.msde@maryland.gov:

- a) a list of all families enrolled,
- b) email address, and
- c) proof of enrollment, i.e. attendance sheets

The next step is to follow up with each family to ensure that 50% of your families have completed the survey. You can do this by sending weekly emails and asking families to let you know after the survey has been completed. They can save a screenshot of the "thank you for completing our survey" and send it to you so you can provide verification they completed the full survey. When you receive 50% of your family's completion screenshot, you will be awarded **3 PAUs. (Must provide the screenshot to prove completion of the survey).**

PAU's will be awarded by sending proof of enrollment (attendance sheets with each family indicated) and the screenshot of survey completion for 50% of those listed on the attendance sheets.

This is a critical time in the lives of families, children and child care providers. The only way to make informed decisions is to have data that shows the struggles and the triumphs that they have overcome and celebrated. The decisions that we make moving forward are vital to the success of child care and the education of our youngest learners. **The survey closes on Friday, November 6, 2020.**

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Nizer, M.Ed.
Director, Office of Child Care