To: Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) and Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) Providers

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

Date: May 8, 2020

Subject: Guidance on Grants on EPCC and EPSA Grants

In starting the EPCC and EPSA programs, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) took the precaution of ensuring a sufficient supply of child care would be available during the state of emergency. As part of the preparation needed for safe, clean and disinfected environments, the MSDE provided small grants to child care providers. These funds also helped compensate for medical supplies, such as masks and temporal thermometers and the necessary lower-capacity numbers required to achieve recommended social distancing. While some programs have been operating now for six weeks, others have not needed to start because they have not had the demand.

Many states have used the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Discretionary Funds appropriated in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to support, in a variety of ways, their overall child care system. One of the ways in which Maryland chose to use funding was by providing $2,800 grants to family child care providers and $3,600 to child care centers. These funds assure the providers have a source of income to aid them in remaining open or to enable them to reopen at a later date. The funds can also be used for cleaning and sanitation, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs due to COVID-19. These grant funds do not have to be repaid.