



Child Care Information Session

Maryland State Department of Education

Presented By | Division of Early Childhood/Office of Child Care

January 26, 2023



1. 6:00-6:10 p.m. - Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. 6:10-6:20 p.m. - Updates from Maryland EXCELS
3. 6:20-6:45 p.m. - Child Care Scholarship Updates - Advance Payment
4. 6:45-6:55 p.m. - Answers to Submitted Questions
5. 6:55-7:00 p.m. - Closing Remarks

Agenda



1. 6:00-6:10 p.m. - Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. 6:10-6:20 p.m. - Updates from Maryland EXCELS
3. 6:20-6:45 p.m. - Child Care Scholarship Updates - Advance Payment
4. 6:45-6:55 p.m. - Answers to Submitted Questions
5. 6:55-7:00 p.m. - Closing Remarks

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood





1. 6:00-6:10 p.m. - Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. 6:10-6:20 p.m. - Updates from Maryland EXCELS
3. 6:20-6:45 p.m. - Child Care Scholarship Updates - Advance Payment
4. 6:45-6:55 p.m. - Answers to Submitted Questions
5. 6:55-7:00 p.m. - Closing Remarks

Updates from Maryland EXCELS

What is Maryland EXCELS?

Maryland's Quality Rating and Improvement System

Our team provides support to child care and public school programs as they grow and increase their quality.

Support includes:

- User-friendly Standards and online system providing a roadmap for improvement
- Guidance from experienced Quality Assurance Specialists
- Financial incentives like bonuses and EXCELS payments
- Vendor discounts and Accreditation Support Funds to help programs purchase new materials

Benefits



Maryland EXCELS Participation by County*

| County | % | County | % | County | % |
|---------------------|----|-------------------|-----|------------------------|----|
| Allegany County | 82 | Charles County | 69 | Prince George's County | 70 |
| Anne Arundel County | 58 | Dorchester County | 72 | Queen Anne's County | 53 |
| Baltimore City | 86 | Frederick County | 51 | Somerset County | 77 |
| Baltimore County | 69 | Garrett County | 100 | St. Mary's County | 39 |
| Calvert County | 69 | Harford County | 64 | Talbot County | 58 |
| Caroline County | 56 | Howard County | 60 | Washington County | 65 |
| Carroll County | 55 | Kent County | 52 | Wicomico County | 74 |
| Cecil County | 64 | Montgomery County | 65 | Worcester County | 59 |

*Updated, 01/24/2023

Maryland EXCELS Standards Revisions

Coming soon: User-friendly Standards and toolkit, making it easier than ever to increase your quality rating!

Revisions are currently being conducted by a panel of Maryland EXCELS and research professionals.
Stakeholder feedback will be collected in late spring.



Maryland Accreditation Orientation

Coming soon: Maryland Accreditation Online Orientation!



Accreditation Support Funds

Let us help you pay for accreditation!

National Accreditation Support Fund is for centers and family child care and provides assistance for application fees.

Maryland Accreditation Fund assists centers with the cost of instructional materials associated with pursuing Maryland Accreditation.

This can include materials for centers, books, math manipulatives, science equipment and more.



Bonus Basics

Maryland EXCELS Bonuses:

- Participating programs that publish a first-time rating, a higher quality rating, or republication of a quality rating 5.
- Bonuses will be based on publishing actions as of July 1, 2022.
- Bonus payments are in progress.
- There are no requirements for how the bonuses are spent.
- Bonuses are ongoing as outlined in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Bonus Amounts for Child Care Centers

Bonus amounts for child care centers will range from \$150-\$13,500.

| Quality Rating | Child Care Center Capacity 1-50 | Child Care Center Capacity 51-100 | Child Care Center Capacity 101+ |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Current Bonus Amounts | Current Bonus Amounts | Current Bonus Amounts |
| 1 | \$150 | \$300 | \$450 |
| 2 | \$750 | \$1,500 | \$2,250 |
| 3 | \$1,200 | \$2,400 | \$3,600 |
| 4 | \$3,000 | \$6,000 | \$9,000 |
| 5 | \$4,500 | \$9,000 | \$13,500 |

Bonus Amounts for Family Child Care and Large Family Homes

Bonus amounts for family child care and large family homes will range from \$150-\$3,000.

| Quality Rating | Family Child Care | Large Family Home |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Current Bonus Amounts | Current Bonus Amounts |
| 1 | \$150 | \$150 |
| 2 | \$450 | \$600 |
| 3 | \$900 | \$1,200 |
| 4 | \$1,500 | \$2,400 |
| 5 | \$2,400 | \$3,000 |

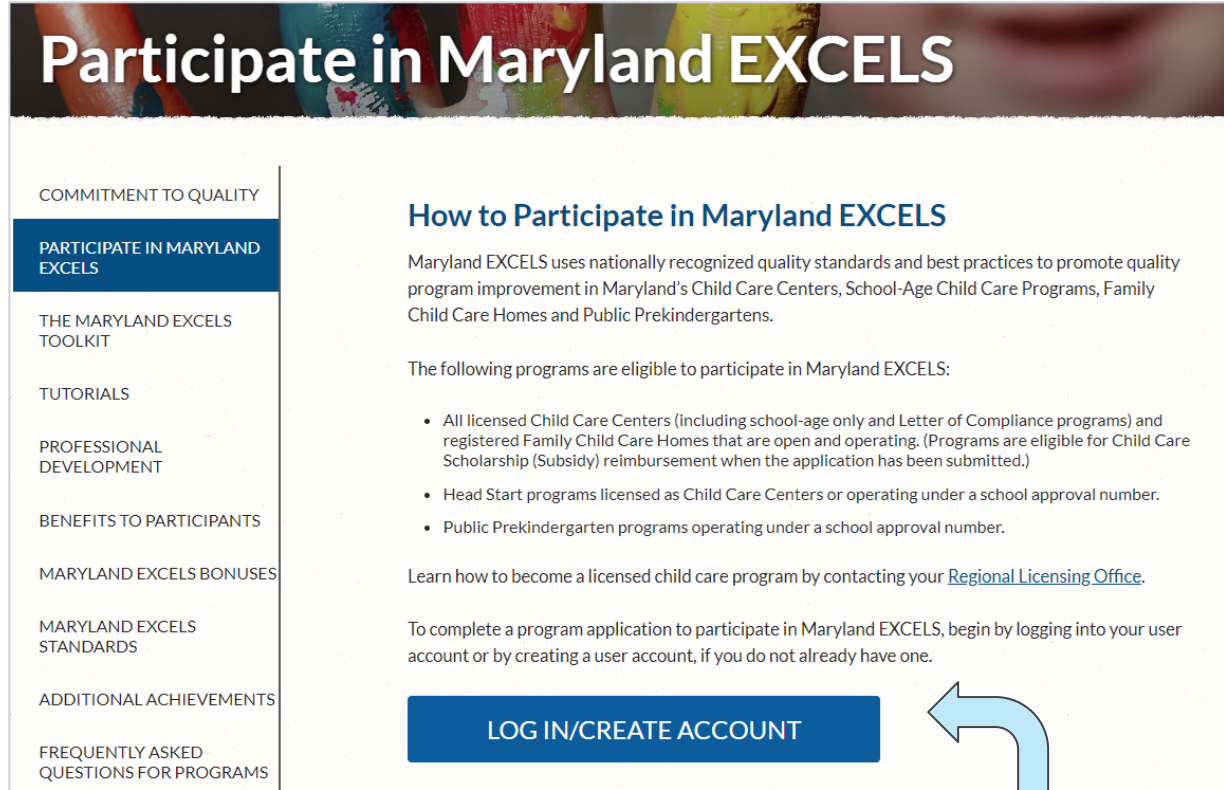
Programs must participate in Maryland EXCELS to accept Child Care Scholarships.

EXCELS Payments

EXCELS payments are made to providers who accept a [Child Care Scholarship](#) and have a Maryland EXCELS published Quality Rating of level 3, 4, or 5.

| EXCELS Payments | Quality Rating | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
| Family child care | | | |
| Under 2 years of age | 11% | 22% | 29% |
| 2 years of age and over | 10% | 21% | 28% |
| Child care center | | | |
| Under 2 years of age | 22% | 37% | 44% |
| 2 years of age and over | 10% | 19% | 26% |

Ready to Get Started?



Participate in Maryland EXCELS

COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

PARTICIPATE IN MARYLAND EXCELS

THE MARYLAND EXCELS TOOLKIT

TUTORIALS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS

MARYLAND EXCELS BONUSES

MARYLAND EXCELS STANDARDS

ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS

How to Participate in Maryland EXCELS

Maryland EXCELS uses nationally recognized quality standards and best practices to promote quality program improvement in Maryland's Child Care Centers, School-Age Child Care Programs, Family Child Care Homes and Public Prekindergartens.

The following programs are eligible to participate in Maryland EXCELS:

- All licensed Child Care Centers (including school-age only and Letter of Compliance programs) and registered Family Child Care Homes that are open and operating. (Programs are eligible for Child Care Scholarship (Subsidy) reimbursement when the application has been submitted.)
- Head Start programs licensed as Child Care Centers or operating under a school approval number.
- Public Prekindergarten programs operating under a school approval number.

Learn how to become a licensed child care program by contacting your [Regional Licensing Office](#).

To complete a program application to participate in Maryland EXCELS, begin by logging into your user account or by creating a user account, if you do not already have one.

LOG IN/CREATE ACCOUNT

Apply online at <https://marylandexcels.org/commitment-to-quality/participate/>

Stay Up to Date with Maryland EXCELS

Stay in Touch!

Follow us:
[@MarylandEXCELS](#)

Look for our eBlasts
and news in Tuesday
Tidbits





1. 6:00 - 6:10 p.m. - Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. 6:10 - 6:20 p.m. - Updates from Maryland EXCELS
3. 6:20 - 6:45 p.m. - Child Care Scholarship Updates - Advance Payment
4. 6:45 - 6:55 p.m. - Answers to Submitted Questions
5. 6:55 - 7:00 p.m. - Closing Remarks

Child Care Scholarship Updates

On October 20, 2022, Superintendent Choudhury sent a program memorandum to the child care community advising of upcoming changes effective January 2, 2023.

What is the Advance Payment Process?



The advance payment process allows for MSDE to pay providers in advance.



Advanced payment is based on enrollment.



Issue advance payments based on enrollment for that advance payment month.

How will this work?

1

MSDE will divide the total amount a provider is due each month into two payments: 1st-14th and 15th – Last day of the month.

2

Providers will receive advance payments based on the number of active receipted scholarships.

3

A monthly payment email notification will be sent to providers with details of the advanced payment.

How will this work?

4

Providers must continue to turn in signed invoices each service period.

5

Payments will be recouped for providers who do not return the invoice.

6

True Up reconciliation process will begin in April and each month thereafter.

The True Up Process

What is True Up?

The reconciliation process, may increase or decrease a provider's payment, after the advance payment month has been paid.

An example of True Up:

1. Child enters care on January 20th
2. Child was enrolled after the advance payment was processed for January
3. Provider will be paid for the child's enrollment in February and subsequent months
4. Provider will receive the payment adjustment in April for January's payment

Advance Payments

This Checkwriter Report is for your second advanced payment!

In October, State Superintendent of Schools Mohammed Choudhury announced a new policy for advanced, enrollment-based payments.

MSDE will now pay providers for the number of children enrolled in a month at the beginning of the month, as of January 1, 2023, onward. In the past, you were not paid until after a service period ended.

The second Child Care Scholarship advanced payment under this policy has now been issued. This advanced payment amount is based on the number of children with enrollment dates as of January 6, 2023.

A list of the amount paid for each scholarship will be mailed separately next week. This will provide the information you usually receive in the Invoice Detail Report.

Payment amounts have been adjusted for scholarship end dates and EXCELS Tier payments, if applicable. Registration fees are not included in this second payment. Union dues, and recoupment are not deducted in this payment. MSDE will reconcile registration fees and union dues later this spring.

Each monthly advanced payment will be issued in two payments. This payment is for the second half of the month. The first checkwriter payment was sent January 12 to 19 for the first half of the month.

Advance Payments

New True Up Reconciliation Process

Four months after each advanced payment, MSDE will reconcile your account based on actual scholarship enrollments for the month:

- If additional children were added after the advanced payment calculation, MSDE will pay an increased amount for the additional enrollment; and/or if scholarships were ended early in the month, a reduction will be taken in the amount MSDE pays.
- Adjustments will also be made for closures, unapproved holidays, and rate adjustments (such as child turning two).

Avoid Overpayments!

Invoices are still required for each month's two pay periods, though attendance will not affect the amount of payment!

The invoice is due to MSDE 60 days from issuance. MSDE cannot accept late invoices. If an invoice is not submitted on time, MSDE is required to establish an overpayment to recover payments for all children that were enrolled for the service period.

Overpayments will also be established when children have more than 60 days of absences in a calendar year or a provider is closed for more than 10 consecutive days, more than once in a calendar year.

Call CCS Central 2 with questions: 1-877-227-0125



1. 6:00 - 6:10 p.m. - Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. 6:10 - 6:20 p.m. - Updates from Maryland EXCELS
3. 6:20 - 6:45 p.m. - Child Care Scholarship Updates - Advance Payment
4. 6:45 - 6:55 p.m. - Answers to Submitted Questions
5. 6:55 - 7:00 p.m. - Closing Remarks

Answers to Submitted Questions

Ask your questions in the Q&A box in the upper right corner of your screen.



Submitted Questions

Question 1

Please explain how the daily rate for the advance scholarship payments is calculated. Is it based on 7 days/week, 5 days/week, or the number of days in the month?

Question 2

Why is it when we get an advanced payment Maryland Excel payment isn't included?

Question 3

Advance payment were supposed to be for January 2023, why did we get it for 12/5/2022? The Detail Report for Adverse Payment shows service period 12/5/2022? Is this correct?

Contact Information

| Branch/Office | Contact Information |
|--|--|
| Division of Early Childhood | earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov |
| Early Learning Branch | early.learningbranchesmsde@maryland.gov |
| Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch | collaboration.programimprovement@maryland.gov |
| Office of Child Care | earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov |
| Licensing Branch | licensingocc.msde@maryland.gov |
| Workforce Advancement Branch | workforceadvancementocc.msde@maryland.gov 1-877-355-1229 |
| Child Care Scholarship Program | CCSCentral2@maryland.gov 1-877-227-0125 |
| Maryland EXCELS | info@marylandexcels.org or marylandexcels.org |



1. 6:00 - 6:10 p.m. - Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. 6:10 - 6:20 p.m. - Updates from Maryland EXCELS
3. 6:20 - 6:45 p.m. - Child Care Scholarship Updates - Advance Payment
4. 6:45 - 6:55 p.m. - Answers to Submitted Questions
5. 6:55 - 7:00 p.m. - Closing Remarks

Closing Remarks

Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood